

## WEEK'S WAR SUMMARY

By W. H. STEWART

The past week in the war areas has been characterized by a renewal of German activities against the Russians in the east and the declaration of a paper blockade of the British Isles by the German submarines and Zeppelins, under the motto of "God Starve England."

As to eastern war affairs the German claims of having captured 64,000 prisoners in their advance at the eastern extremity of East Prussia may be taken as grossly overrated. The Germans collected eight or ten army corps and made a rapid advance eastward in two columns from Königsberg. Their efforts were directed to cut off the Russian line of retreat from the strong fortress of the Niemen, but the Russian troops slipped away and only rear guard actions were fought, as was proved by the dispersal of the attacking German troops in the movement. It was claimed that the new movement took the Grand Duke Nicholas by surprise, but there is no adequate evidence to this effect.

**Russians Forwarded.**

As troops were drawn from the western front to make this advance the cause and to reinforce the Austrians in Hungary, it is inconceivable that with the superior strategic facilities of the allies on the western front the movement was noticed especially as a further indication of the shifting of troops was revealed by the report about the capture of the coup was attempted from Copenhagen that sailings had been cut off for two days from the port of Danzig. This task of transporting the body of men would take several days, it may be surmised that, with the large Russian intelligence service maintained in Germany, the grand duke was fully aware of the coming attack and took measures to make it ineffective.

As to the reported capturing of 64,000 Russians in this region it may be placed on a par with other German claims that they had taken the whole British army prisoners at Mons as given out expressly by the Kaiser in a review of some recruits at Potsdam at the beginning of the war. Their Austrian ally has also been guilty of exaggeration. The report given out of the capture of 10,000 Russians in Bukovina has been denied by the Russian war office, which states that this number was more than the total number of Russians engaged. The Moscow press has been a little over 100 men.

**Cause of Exaggerations.**

To revert to German exaggerations it may be asked what end should they be made? The answer is that it is considered by Germans on all sides that the objects of the war to gain the most favorable public opinion; the other two objects being, second, the conquering and the third, the gaining possession of his material and moral resources, such as conquering his capital and destroying his factories and industries. These maxims were first advanced by Von Clausewitz, the German writer on war, whom Bernhardi and all the rest of German war theorists were pupils. The gaining of a favorable public opinion, German war writers have been guilty of exaggeration, such as the circulation of reports of disaster in hostile forces, such as were attempted in England at the outbreak of the war, where German agents spread rumors that certain well-known British regiments had been destroyed, before the British had even

been engaged with the enemy, and the spreading at home and abroad reports of these great disasters to the enemies of Germany, whether true or not, in order to weaken his moral resources, and the confidence of his allies, and to instill confidence at home. The Germans had first turned on the full stream of their publicity plans in the reports of the Russian reverses in the Mauerian Lake region in August. It was at first recounted, and British and other commentators on the war fell into the trap, that thousands of Russians were engulfed in the lakes thru the marvelous strategy of Von Hindenburg. That general disposed the falsehood of this story in an interview about a month ago, in which he admitted that no Russians were drowned and only made a large number of prisoners.

**Admirable Measures Taken.**

The measures taken by Grand Duke Nicholas to prevent a surprise attack by the Germans in East Prussia were admirable. He threw out a screen of cavalry along the whole frontier from the Niemen to the Baltic. Behind this screen he has doubtless concentrated forces of infantry to be moved at short notice to any critical point of attack. It is probable that in East Prussia he had at most only one or two divisions, scattered over a wide front for observation purposes, to prevent any surprise movement from the north on Warsaw.

**Reason for Offensive.**

Reasons for the German advance to the borders of East Prussia are probably to relieve the pressure on Von Hindenburg before Warsaw, where he is entrenched in force and cannot make any retirement lest the Russians should come upon him in tremendous force, also to relieve the pressure on the new armistice of Austria and Germany battling in the Carpathians to prevent an invasion of Hungary and finally to cheer up the line, which is now in deep gloom over the food shortage and to secure a favorable sentiment in the Reichstag by the capture of another huge war credit.

**Some writers profess disappointment at the alleged slowness of the Russians in making their full force felt. They say that the Russians should be well on the way to Berlin. Such critics fail to grasp the magnitude of this war. Before moving on Berlin the Russians have to dispose of the power of Austria. They have already shattered beyond recovery. Practically the whole Austrian first line troops have already been destroyed and only second and third rate troops are left to take their place. This is indicated by the measure that the German had to take in strengthening the backbone of the Austrians with Bavarian and other Prussian troops in the Carpathians and in Bukovina.**

**Hold Off Hostile Attacks.**

South of Galicia the Russians are stemming the attacks of the enemy, whose forces, lacking reinforcements, are practically fought stale. In Bukovina the Russian withdrawal is to the north of the Pruth River, where reinforcements have arrived. A stand will probably be made here on favorable territory. The country thereabouts is now on the verge of expending a heavy battle in the region of the Pruth where there will be tremendous floods in the deep mountain valleys. In risking a battle in this region the Austrians will run a deeper danger of being cut off from their base of supplies.

**Submarines to Be Tested.**

In the west diplomatic features have been prominent, owing to the German official announcement that they will embark in a maritime war which will culminate in the previously recorded in history. A whole nation has turned pirate.

**It is doubtful if the Germans will do much more with their submarines and mines than they have done previously. But they have officially committed themselves to such a course. This departure from the legitimate rules of warfare will give Britain a ground for reprisals, and this she will not be slow to take. Winston Spencer Churchill, first sea lord, said in parliament that more would be made with the navy, intimating an active campaign against the German submarines. Lord George, chancellor of the exchequer, said that it would take ten billion dollars to make the German navy as strong as their maximum strength. This refers particularly to Russia, whose chief handicap in the previous war was lack of financial resources. With the British command of the sea as an auxiliary, competent observers have declared that Germany in a large scale attack in dense masses. The fighting was on a large scale. The British regained the lost ground the next day. The French on Tuesday captured two miles of trenches from the Germans in the Champagne district and reported general success. The British had been occupied by the Germans Sunday on the Lorraine frontier were retaken by the French, except for the northern slope of the hill to which the enemy still clung.**

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was prepared to take up the challenge of the enemy. It was as sound as a bell all thru, and the new British line, furnished anything the Germans had.

David Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, said in a speech that he brought only one-third of their resources to bear on the enemy, and that it would take ten billion dollars to bring all of their resources to bear. This would be done this year. He said that from their foreign investments alone Great Britain would derive enough capital to carry on the war for five years and France could do the same for three years. Great Britain and France would be well equipped to finance some other countries that would join in the war. Russia would be fully backed financially by France and Great Britain, and they would see that Belgium would be cared for.

**Germans to Drop Mines.**

According to Ambassador Von Bernstorff at Washington the Germans intend to drop mines in British ports and waters as well as make attacks on the shipping by submarines. He said the United States had been informed of the importation of food into Germany in return for the rescinding of the Berlin decree for the indiscriminate torpedoing of neutral ships. This is the United States papers called a gigantic bluff, and they used in general strong language to state that Britain would never induce the republic to pull its chestnuts from the fire.

**Reprisals by Britain.**

Sir Edward Grey, in a note to Washington in reply to the protest of the German order, and the allowed the German submarine campaign, and that she would cut off the shipment of food supplies from Germany. The ground was laid for the reprisals to determine in a country where military matters are uppermost whether it would be possible to know whether it would be possible to reach the civilian population. Sir Edward denies that the activities of the British fleet have interfered with United States trade.

**Germany Flouts U.S.A.**

Germany in her reply to Washington's note against the continued use of the Berlin decree practically refused to mitigate its rigors in any measure. She complains that Great Britain is cutting off her food supply and that she is faced with starvation. She asks the United States to help her to coerce Great Britain by sending ships laden with food under the escort of warships to German ports. In the same message the German Government declares its intention to lay mines in British waters and harbors as well as to attack merchant ships with submarines, and reiterates that it cannot guarantee the safety of any neutral ship in the war zone.

**French Ends Captured.**

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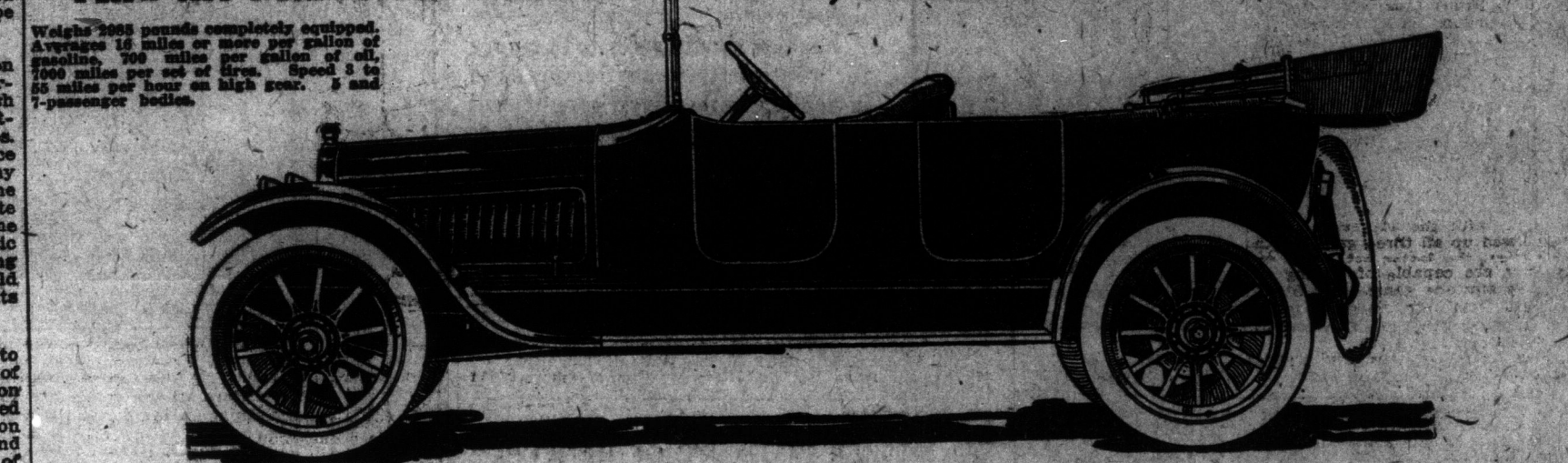
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off the coast of Jutland. Wednesday one was seen drifting disabled over Amsterdam, and it later came to rest with a big explosion. Thursday morning another became unmanageable in a dense snowstorm and fell in the sea near the Jutland coast. Four men of the crew of fifteen were drowned. Indications point to the intended employment of the submarine in the "blockade" of the British Isles. It is not expected that they will last long in this work. They are the most vulnerable of craft, and are unable to counter stormy weather. The ones lost were probably detached for reconnaissance work.

**Germans Face Starvation.**

Various stories come out of Germany from different sources sufficiently corroborative of the fact that the German people are confronted with a serious shortage in their food supply. Germany is now sending out commercial travelers to Scandinavia, to buy all the food they can obtain. As a result, it is probable that British will take steps to stop this exportation of foodstuffs from these countries.

**Campaign in East.**

The Russians opened the week's operations in the eastern theatre by putting a decided stop to the German advance in East Prussia by way of the Mauerian Lakes, where Von Hindenburg hoped to repeat his victory of Tannenberg, won earlier in the war. The German advance was in two columns from Königsberg. Failing back before the southern column to the Plains of Lyck, the Russians turned on their pursuers and beat them back. The German loss is reported, as heavy. Further north, by way of Tilsit the Russians retreated to the banks of the Niemen River, which are well fortified. It is reported that they are preparing to give battle in East Prussia, if the Germans challenge them. Only one division suffered losses in the German attempt to make a Russian decision and the claims of Berlin of winning a great victory are not substantiated by the facts.

**The Russians succeeded Tuesday in getting clear of the lines of the main German drive which was intended to cut them off from their bases in the Mauerian Lakes region of East Prussia, and the engagements in this region have taken the form of scattered combats. The enemy has been unable so far to drive them from Lyck.**

**Russians Beyond Niemen.**

The Germans operating in East Prussia were estimated at 100,000 men. Contrary to previous statements this move was known to the Russian general staff in advance, and arrangements were made several days before to withdraw. This the Russians did in good order, their rear being protected by cavalry, which fought brilliant rear guard actions. The enemy's move was a barren of strategic results. The Russian troops have retired beyond the Niemen and strong border fortresses, and have drawn the Germans beyond the area of their strategic railways. The country in East Prussia previously occupied by one or two Russian army corps which suffered several losses has been laid waste, and the Germans can derive no sustenance from it. Their slight wounded have all to be carried into Germany for treatment. Many thousands of cases of typhus and typhoid have developed among the Germans in Poland, and the Polish towns are filled with the sick.

### To Cure Catarrhal Deafness and Head Noises

Persons suffering from catarrhal deafness and head noises will be glad to know that this distressing affliction can usually be successfully treated at home by an internal medicine that in many instances has effected a complete cure after other treatments have failed. Sufferers who could scarcely hear a watch tick tell how they have had their hearing restored to such an extent that the tick of a watch was plainly audible seven or eight inches away from their ear.

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