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INVINCIBLE SENDS DOWN VONDER TANN

British Battle Cruiser Reported to Have Whipped and Sunk Heavier German Opponent

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 10.—La Prensa publishes a report that an engagement has taken place off Rio Grande Do Nord, Brazil, between the British battle cruiser Invincible, and the German battle cruiser Von der Tann, adding that the Von der Tann has been sunk.

The Invincible is one of the ships taking part in the British victory off the Falkland Islands recently, when a British squadron, under Admiral Sturdee, sunk four out of five ships of a German squadron that had been raiding commerce in the South Pacific.

The Invincible is a battle-cruiser of 17,250 tons and having a speed of 25 knots. She carries a complement of 780 men. Her main armament is eight 12-in. guns and sixteen 4-in. guns with two torpedo tubes.

The German battle-cruiser Von der Tann was reported to have escaped from the Kiel Canal, pierced the blockading British lines and steamed into the Atlantic some time before the Falkland Islands naval fight. It was also believed that, apart from his anxiety to escape the pursuing Japanese fleet, Von Spee was endeavoring to effect a junction with the Von der Tann when he steamed into the Atlantic and met his tragic fate.

The Von der Tann is listed as a battle-cruiser of 19,100 tons, being thus considerably larger than her reported successful rival, the Invincible. Her main armament is given as eight 11-in.; ten 5.9-in. and sixteen 3.4-in. guns with four torpedo tubes.

Her speed is given as 28 knots—three knots greater than the Invincible.

ALLIES MAINTAIN PROGRESS

Push Forward Their Lines in the West, in Spite of Violent German Counter Attacks

Paris, via St. Pierre, Jan. 9.—North of Soissons our progress was maintained. A second German offensive attempt was repulsed. This morning trenches captured between Perthes, Le Hurlouais and Heigt two hundred were spiritedly counter-attacked, but the Germans were completely thrown back, suffering heavy losses. Elsewhere there is nothing to report.

The Minister of the Colonies announces that Colonel Meyer has gained a brilliant victory in the Cameroons, repulsing a fierce German attack against Edea. The enemy suffered heavy losses.

President Poincaré received a week ago a letter from President Wilson of the United States, ending as follows: "The relations between our two nations have been relations of such cordial and spontaneous friendship, that I take a special pleasure as official representative of the United States people to address to you, as the distinguished representative of France, the expression of my warmest feelings for the citizens of the great French Republic."

Great Britain Shows U.S. It Is Absolutely Necessary Search Neutral Shipping

Washington, Jan. 10.—Britain's preliminary reply to the note from the United States Government, requesting an improvement in treatment of American Commerce by the British fleet, was made public here and in London today, by mutual agreement between the State Department and the British Foreign Office.

The British communication concurs in the view of the United States that commerce between neutral nations should be interfered with only when imperatively necessary. Officials of the Washington Government construe it as conceding that the principles expressed by the American note were just, and upheld by previously accepted usages and international law.

The only formal comment made tonight was contained in a brief statement issued by Secretary Bryan, who said, "This answer being preliminary and not being intended as a complete reply, we will postpone comment until the full answer is received."

Briefly, the British note, while conceding principles of American Government's contentions, points out the difficulties in actual practice, refers to alleged fraudulent practices by shippers and cites statistics showing an increase, rather than a decrease, in certain neutral commerce, in support of Great Britain's suspicions that Germany and Austria have been indirectly obtaining contraband through neutral countries.

The note promises, however, that Britain will make redress whenever the action of the British fleet may unintentionally exceed the limits of international law.

Business-like Document London, Jan. 11.—In its editorial comment on Great Britain's reply to the United States Government's note, The Daily Mail expresses confidence that the American people will ungrudgingly recognize the many merits of Sir Edward Grey's communication.

It is prompt, candid, pertinent and conciliatory, says The Mail and, while it does not profess to be exhaustive, it brings most of the American assertions and complaints to the touchstone of fact.

In tone and spirit it confirms to that ideal, friendly frankness which the United States Government suggested as the right note.

There is little doubt, says The Mail, that the bulk of copper shipments to neutral countries since the war began were destined for Germany and there is still less doubt that copper shipments not genuinely destined for neutral countries should be stopped.

"Indeed," The Mail says in conclusion, "when taken in conjunction with the concessions he is able to announce Grey's reply will, we believe, satisfy the American nation that there is very little left for two business-like nations to differ about."

TURKS TRY TO REMEDY DISASTER

Bringing Up Fresh Troops to Grapple With Russians and to Avert Attack on Constantinople

London, Jan. 11.—The Daily correspondent telegraphs from Petrograd that the Turks apparently have determined to make an immediate effort to retrieve their disaster in the Caucasus.

They are trying to resume advance from Karaurgan, West of Sarikamish, on the Turkish frontier, where the remnants of the fugitive Tenth Corps are gathered.

They have been reinforced by the remaining troops from the Erzeroum garrison and there are indications that the Turks are bringing very great masses of troops into the theatre of present operations.

The urgency for averting a further catastrophe is immediately due to the extremity of the position of Constantinople, where it has been announced that capital punishment will be inflicted upon anybody circulating foreign reports of the operations.

Turk Army Corps Will Endeavour To Invade Egypt

Has Left Damascus to do Battle With Colonial and Native Egyptian Troops

London, Jan. 10.—The eighth Turkish army corps has left Damascus for the Egyptian frontier, well armed, provisioned and provided with 8,000 camels for crossing the desert, says a despatch from Athens.

The message continues: It is reported from Beirut, Syria, that all the French and Greek subjects have been taken to Damascus.

Two British subjects have been taken to Damascus in chains because of an effort to escape.

Curliana

At the Curling Rink to-night Natives vs. All-Comers will compete instead of the games for the President and Vice-President trophy. A great game is expected.

Policy of the United States Is The Cult Of Cowardice Says Theodore Roosevelt

New York, Jan. 9.—In an article written for the current issue of the Independent, Col. Roosevelt says under the caption, "Utopi or Hell," "To violate these conventions, to violate neutrality treaties, as Germany has done in the case of Belgium, is a dreadful thing."

"It represents the gravest kind of international wrongdoing, but it is really not quite so contemptible, it does not show so shortsighted and timid efficiency, and above all such selfish indifference to the cause of permanent and righteous peace, as has been shown by the United States (thanks to President Wilson and Secretary Bryan) in refusing to fulfil its solemn obligations by taking whatever action was necessary in order to clear our skirts from the guilt of tame acquiescence in a wrong which we had solemnly undertaken to oppose."

"If I had for one moment supposed that ignoring those Hague conventions meant literally nothing whatever beyond the expression of a pious wish which any power was at liberty to disregard with impunity, in accordance with the dictation of self-interest, I would certainly not have permitted the United States to be a party to such a mischievous farce."

"President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, however, take the view that when the United States assumes obligations in order to secure small and unoffending neutral nations against hideous wrong, its action is not predicated on any intention to make the guarantee effective."

"They take the view that when we are asked to redeem in the concrete promises we made in the abstract, our duty is to disregard our obligations and to preserve ignoble peace for ourselves by regarding with cold-blooded and timid indifference the most frightful ravages of war committed at the expense of a peaceful and unoffending country."

"This is the cult of cowardice. That President Wilson and Mr. Bryan profess it and put it in action would be of small consequence if only they themselves were concerned. The importance of their action is that it commits the United States."

777 Volunteers Now On The List

Thirteen Recruits Offered Their Services on Saturday

The Volunteers for the Second Contingent now number 777, the following having enlisted Saturday:—

St. John's—Jas. R. Steele, Jas. J. Harvey, Fred. Reid, C. Pender, Jno. Connolly, Patk. Coady, Martin Wickham;

Portugal Cove Rd.—J. J. McDonald; Placentia—David J. Furlong, Jas. R. Mooney, Jas. J. Walsh; Upper Gullies—Garland Warford; Witless Bay—Chas. J. Davis.

Saturday afternoon was spent at Government House grounds, where the volunteers were put through a series of exercises.

ALLIES NOW NEAR LILLE AND OSTEND

German Civilians Leaving Belgian Seaport—British Reported in Virtual Possession of Lille

London, Jan. 10.—German civilians are leaving Ostend, because the Allies have now advanced to within nine miles of that town, according to a despatch to the Amsterdam Telegraph, from its Stuis correspondent.

London, Jan. 11.—A despatch to The Daily Express from Boulogne asserts that confirmation has been obtained of rumors that Germans have evacuated Lille and that the city is now virtually in the possession of the British.

INVENTED RECORDING TELEPHONE

Latest Electrical Marvel, Produced by Thos. A. Edison to be on View at the Panama Pacific Exhibition

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—Among the remarkable exhibits to be shown at the Panama-Pacific International exposition at San Francisco will be Thomas A. Edison's latest invention, the "Telescribe." This is a combination of telephone and dictaphone and has never before been exhibited at an international exposition. It fulfils Mr. Edison's prediction uttered in 1870 that perfection in telephonic communication would be reached only when means were discovered for combining the telephone and phonograph in order that telephone messages might be properly recorded.

KEEPS RECORD OF CONVERSATIONS

And Prevents Central or Any Other Party "Breaking-in"—Recorded Conversations May be Repeated

When the receiver of the desk telephone is removed from the hook and placed in the socket of the 'telescribe' the acoustic connection of the dictating machine is made and then the user takes up the small receiver attached to a "telescribe" and begins conversation. In this way both sides of the conversation are recorded, on the telescribe cylinder and communication with the central operator is shut off, thus preventing 'breaking in' on the line. The value of the telescribe is shown in the fact that the telephone system transmits sixty per cent. of all forms of communication in the United States, totalling fifteen billion conversations per year, a grand total in excess of the number of telegrams, letters and railroad passengers in the same period.

Fleet of German Airships Bombard City of Dunkirk

Dropped Thirty Bombs, But There Were But Few Victims And Little Damage Done

Paris, Jan. 11.—A despatch from Dunkirk says a dozen German aeroplanes bombed Dunkirk and its environs.

Thirty bombs were thrown by the airmen, but, owing to precautions taken, there were few victims and the material damage was unimportant.

Roumanians Likely To Play Big Part in War

Member of Parliament Says He Believes She Will Hasten End Of The Conflict

Paris, Jan. 11.—G. I. Diamandy, Deputy in the Roumanian Parliament, and member of the Franco-Roumanian mission now in France, declared at a banquet Saturday night that Roumania was now on the eve of grave developments and that it was sure to win because "we are sure of the justice of our cause."

He said he was sure that Roumania's entry into the war would result in its end and he added that he did not speak officially, but that he voiced the sentiments of his people generally.

ARMED CREW

Sept. 12.—Marie proceeding on the same course S.E., during the day the cruiser would lead about three miles and at night he would drop astern some distance, all lights being out on both ships. There was an armed crew of 14 men placed on board to watch my crew. The commander signalled to the officer in charge to treat the whole crew as well as possible.

Sept. 13.—Ordered to stop by the cruiser and they passed several hundred coal bags on board to be filled by my crew, who received ordinary day's (Continued on page 6)

Montenegrins Prove a Match For Austrians

Their Troops Hold All Positions Firmly In Spite of Bad Weather and Austrian Attacks

Cettinje, Jan. 10.—The Montenegrin War Office has issued the following statement:—

Torrential rains and continuous bad weather have rendered all military operations most difficult, but the Montenegrin troops have firmly held all their positions, notwithstanding the fierce artillery fire of the Austrians.

German Writes 'We're Starving' Under A Stamp

Wealthy Man Takes Unique Way of Smuggling a Message Out of Germany

Winnipeg, Jan. 4.—An American citizen, resident in Winnipeg, and well-known in the business world here, has received a letter from a life-long friend, now in Germany. The letter had been censored, but on the whole it was moderately optimistic.

The concluding paragraph had, to the recipient, a strange statement: "I remember how enthusiastic a stamp collector you are, this is the new issue and as one of the first out it is worth keeping."

The recipient never had the "stamp fever," but tore off the stamp. Underneath he found lightly written in pencil: "We are starving."

This was from a wealthy man.

Oporto Prices

The Fisheries Dept. has received a cablegram from Oporto that the price of large fish is 32 to 36 shillings per qtl., and 28 to 30 for small.

Herring Fishery

The schrs. Bohemia, 800 bbls.; Artizan, 350 bbls., for Gloucester to the Gorton Pew Co., and Regina, 1150 bbls., for T. M. Nicholson, Bucksport, Maine, have left Woods Island.

Herring is plentiful in the Middle and North Arms to-day and the weather is fine.

Artillery Duels On The West Front

And Allied Guns Again Outclass Those of the Germans

Paris, Jan. 10.—The following official statement was issued today:—

From the sea to the Oise there have been artillery duels.

Upon the Aisne, the region of Soissons, the enemy in spite of many attacks, has not been able to recapture the trenches which they had lost at the end of the day. They again bombarded Soissons.

In the country from Rheims to the Argonne our artillery has shelled German trenches very effectively at general points, driving away bodies of sappers.

Capt. of Elsinore Hadn't Heart Enough To Watch the Leipzig Destroy His Ship

Capt. Roberts, of the Bowling oil tanker Elsinore, which was sunk by the German cruiser Leipzig, is now in England.

By recent English mail, Mr. R. G. Ash received from Capt. Roberts a copy of his official log which he presented to the Admiralty and the owners, Messrs. Bowling Bros.

As the Captain is well-known in St. John's, we publish the log, feeling certain it will be read with interest.

Sept. 6.—At noon left Corinto, Nic. for port San Luis in ballast.

Sept. 10.—Manzanillo abeam at noon about 23 miles; set my course to pass 10 miles off Cape San Lucas.

LEIPZIG APPEARS.

Sept. 11.—At 2.15 a.m. the second officer reported to me that he saw smoke on the port bow, and I at once went on the bridge. At 2.30 a.m. she had searchlight full on us. The weather was fresh S.W. wind and heavy rain. I put the engine stand by for 20 minutes. Then he moused to me in a foreign language and I failed to understand him. He immediately fired across my bow, then I stopped the ship and hoisted her to. At 3.15 a.m. she sent a boat alongside, armed fully with about 25 officers and men. She proved to be the fast German cruiser Leipzig.

WAS CAREFUL.

I may mention that I have been navigating with reduced lights, my stern light and main-mast head-light being out and a careful look-out had been kept. The officers and half the

crew came on board well armed. The leading officer informed me that my steamer was seized and I was a prisoner. He then demanded all my ship's papers, including register, crew's agreement, official Log Book and Officer's Log Book. He then asked me for a full statement regarding all my stores and bunker coal, and seemed very disappointed when I told him that I was burning oil fuel and had only 35 tons of coal for cooking purposes.

TAKEN TO CRUISER.

I was next ordered in the boat to proceed on board the cruiser, at 3.50 a.m. and on arrival on board the commander informed me that I was his prisoner and I was to steer N. 62 Magnetic for sixty miles and have my boats all provisioned and when he gave the signal we all had to leave the ship. The ship's position at this time was about 75 miles S. W. from Cape Corrientes.

He then informed me that after we had left the ship he would take her out and destroy her. I asked him for what reason he was going to destroy a fine new steamer that had no contraband on board, but only in water ballast, he replied that the British were doing the same in the Atlantic. He then sent me back on board after instructing me what course to steer.

ZIG ZAG COURSE.

At 4 a.m. engines full steam ahead, and set course N. 62 E. At 5.30 a.m. she signalled my mourse lamp to alter course S. 15 E. and again at 9.25

he signalled me to steer 5.45 E. then I began to get very anxious wondering when we had to leave as I was at this time 50 miles from the land. At 10.10 he signalled me to go as fast as I could and at 10.30 we sighted a cargo steamer ahead which I mistook for a poor unfortunate like myself for after a while he turned his ship around and appeared to be running away, but he was only manoeuvring and obeying orders from the Leipzig by searchlamp.

This ship (Marie) turned out to be a German ship supplying the cruiser with coal, etc., and the meeting had been prearranged.

RANSACKED HER.

At 11.50 a.m. the cruiser signalled me to leave the ship, to shortly afterwards he again signalled ordering me to proceed on board the Marie, with would allow me two hours to leave the ship, so we immediately went to carry out these orders. In the meantime several of the officers and crew all armed from the Leipzig came on board my ship and commenced to ransack her and take away all the stores they could get for their own use. The app. position at this time was 91° 31' N. 105° 56' W.

At 12.50 p.m. all hands on board the Marie. The ship also afterwards took our boats in her own davits.

COULDN'T WATCH IT.

At 1.10 p.m. cruiser at about one mile distant commenced firing on the Elsinore. The sight was too heart-breaking for me to watch so I kept in

my room my officers informing me afterwards that they put twelve shots in her, which set her on fire and she went down stern first, but before this happened the Marie was ordered to proceed full speed S.E. course and so came the sad end of one of the finest oil steamers on the Pacific coast. I cannot understand why he failed to keep his promise to land me at Cape Corrientes, probably he was anxious himself to escape.

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