

GREECE WORKED OVER IN PROSPECT OF GERMANIC FORCES EXTENDING OPERATIONS TO GREEK SOIL

Austrians to Initiate All Offensive Movements in the Balkans—Reported That March on Saloniki Has Already Begun—Germany Plans to be There January 15 and Promises to Quit Greek Territory as Soon as Task is Accomplished—Rumors of Proposed Attack on Suez Canal Persist, but Scoffed at by British Press.

IMPORTANT EVENTS LOOKED FOR SOON ON RUSSIAN FRONT

London, Dec. 23.—Hartmann-Wellerkopf, the summit of the Germans claim to have re-taken, together with over 1,600 prisoners, is the only point of first class activity on the western front, while on the eastern fighting lines there has been little evidence of any disturbance in the Christmas lull in the past twenty-four hours.

There have been some clashes in Galicia, with minor successes on both sides, and the Russian forces in Persia are fighting twenty-five miles from Teheran, but the Balkan theatre maintains a place of first importance in the war news, despite the fact that there has been no severe fighting for several days.

The Greek public's uneasiness over the possibility of an early extension of Germanic operations to Greek territory increases hourly, and the Greek domestic situation is so ruffled that it is stated that parliament, as soon as it meets, will declare martial law in order to muzzle the opposition press, which has been mercilessly attacking the government.

A Reuter despatch from Athens says that Germany is reported to have informed Greece that she hopes to reach Saloniki by January 15, promising, at the same time, to evacuate Greek territory as soon as the task is finished.

AUSTRIANS TO TAKE LEAD.

Greek correspondents of the Paris newspapers declare that the Teutonic allies have decided that Austria shall have the initiative in all the offensive movements in the Balkans, and reports are also published in Paris that the Austrians are actually marching on Saloniki.

The British correspondents at Saloniki scoff at the reports of an early Germanic offensive, however, declaring their conviction that the lull is likely to persist for some time longer. The Saloniki correspondent of Reuters Telegram Company says that military men there believe the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians will establish a screen parallel to the Greek border, taking up strong positions in the Macedonian defiles, there to await an offensive movement by the Entente Powers.

Geneva despatches speak convincingly of German preparations for an attack on the Suez Canal, which is now timed at the end of January, but the British press continues to declare that the defensive preparations will make an attack on that territory folly.

The Turkish official communication today refers to the "northern front," this being the first reference of the kind.

From Russia come reports that the Germans and Russians alike are making energetic preparations for new operations early in the New Year. The Russian military organ, the Russky Invalid, says:

"The winter campaign on the Russian front will not be confined to war of position. Important events are likely very soon. The Russians and Germans know that the great war will be decided on the Russian front, for no successes elsewhere can have a preponderant effect until a result has been obtained here."

French Recover Positions.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The following official communication was issued to-night:

"In Artois our artillery has displayed activity in the region of Gliwenchy and in the neighborhood of the road to Lille. On the north bank of the Aisne we effectively bombarded an automobile convoy between Conde and Nanteuil.

"In the Woivre to the southeast of the forest of Apremont, the mine fighting was to our advantage.

"In the Vosges, at Hartmannsweilerkopf, the enemy counter-attacks on the slopes to the north of the summit, returned to the positions which they had previously occupied.

"On the centre and on the right, that is to say, on the ridges of the southern part of the summit, and more to the south as far as in front of Watt-viller, we conserved completely the ground conquered on a front of two kilometers (about a mile and a quarter). A snowstorm interrupted the operations in the course of the afternoon.

"The enemy has violently bombarded the northern slopes and the summit of Hartmannsweilerkopf.

"The Belgian official communication reads:

"The day of December 22 was characterized by a bombardment on both sides, which was particularly violent on the whole front of the Belgian army, where the enemy indulged in pure waste in the expenditure of considerable munitions. Our artillery successfully and destructively shell-ed the German trenches on the banks of the Yser."

New American Note Received in Vienna.

Vienna, via London, Dec. 23.—The new American note regarding the Ancon has made a good impression here. An early answer may be expected. Work on it has begun already.

Quiet in Mesopotamia.

London, Dec. 23.—A British official communication, issued this evening, says that Gen. Townshend, command-

CZAR PROUD TO WEAR MILITARY CROSS FRENCH ARMY CONFERS ON HIM

Paris, Dec. 23.—Emperor Nicholas of Russia has sent the following telegram to President Poincaré of France:

"General Pau handed me, in the name of the French army, the war cross instituted for military merit. On this occasion I wish to express my gratitude for the delicate thought, of which I am deeply sensible.

"I beg you to make known to the glorious French army that I am particularly proud to wear this cross in token of the confraternity of arms which unites my army with that of allied France."

"NICHOLAS."

President Poincaré sent the following reply to the Emperor:

"I have transmitted the amiable message of Your Majesty to the French army. It will go to the heart of our officers and soldiers and I pray your Majesty to receive the expression of their gratitude."

At the same time President Poincaré forwarded the telegram of Emperor Nicholas to the war ministry for communication to the army.

AUSTRIAN CAMPAIGN IN MONTENEGRO IS BROUGHT TO HALT

Paris, Dec. 23.—The Austrians apparently have come to a halt in their Montenegrin campaign according to an official statement of the Montenegrin authorities given out by the Montenegrin consul here today. The statement says:

"The enemy is fortifying himself over the entire front in the Sanjak. He has sent all population and livestock away from the right bank of the river Tara.

"The enemy attacked our troops in the neighborhood of Varana, but were repulsed with heavy loss, leaving some prisoners in our hands.

"Up to December 21 the positions were unchanged."

Paris, Dec. 23.—General Bonnal, a French military expert, examining the situation at Saloniki, mentions the German statement that the French and British forces at the Greek port now number 172,000 officers and men, and are increasing, and says:

"The joint army soon will reach 200,000. They are occupying a semi-circle around Saloniki, which itself is just beyond range of the heavy guns. The army is carrying about sixteen to twenty-two miles.

"Fifteen days of entrenching have now given the defensive works a certain solidity, so that 200,000 men, with ample food and munitions supplies, and reinforcements available by the open routes, should be able to resist any army consisting of two or three times their number."

Zeppelin Over Greek Territory.

Paris, Dec. 23.—An Austrian aeroplane flew yesterday to a little more than three miles of Saloniki, and dropped bombs near a village in the city, according to reports from Saloniki forwarded by the Havas correspondent at Athens. Another unconfirmed report from the same source was to the effect that a Zeppelin had been flying over northern Greek territory. The despatch, which bears today's date is as follows:

"It is reported from Saloniki that an Austrian aeroplane was perceived yesterday morning five kilometers from Saloniki. After reconnoitering the aeroplane dropped five bombs near the village of Apapli, without doing any damage. Three French aeroplanes started in pursuit but the enemy aeroplane flew off in a northerly direction."

PROMOTION FOR CAPT. WALSH

Popular Official Assistant Manager of New Canadian Pacific Ocean Services With Headquarters in London.

Benjamin, general passenger agent, Pacific services, all with headquarters at Montreal.

Captain Walsh before joining the Canadian Pacific Railway as marine superintendent had distinguished service under the Elder-Dempster Co., in West Africa, where in addition to his other duties he raised and commanded a volunteer force during the revolution of 1898, receiving the West African medal. He was provincial member of the legislative council there in 1900 and was mentioned in despatches by Col. White for embarkation services during the Ashanti war.

BROUGHT HEAVY CHRISTMAS MAIL.

Christiania, via London, Dec. 23.—The Norwegian steamer Kristianfjord, which called from New York December 1, has arrived here. The vessel brought 1,200 sacks of Christmas mail.

The use of the first class mails for the carrying of food shipments to Germany was first undertaken on a large scale with the sailing of the Kristianfjord from this port on December 1, about 150 packages, each weighing seven pounds, were mailed at an average cost of \$3.48.

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD

Montreal, Q. Dec. 23.—According to a circular just issued H. S. Carmichael is appointed passenger and freight manager of the new Canadian Pacific Ocean Services with headquarters at 8 Waterloo Place, London, England.

It is understood that Captain J. T. Walsh, B. N. R., has been appointed assistant manager of the new company, while Mr. W. G. Annable has been appointed general passenger agent, Atlantic services, and Mr. C. E.

KILBANE AND CHANEY MATCHED.

Cleveland, Dec. 23.—Johnny Kilbane, of this city, featherweight champion, and Geo. Chaney of Baltimore, will battle 15 rounds for the title in Baltimore March 17. Arrangements for the match were settled here tonight, and articles will be signed tomorrow. The weight will be 122 pounds ringside.

GERMAN BEATEN NATION SO FAR AS TRADE CONCERNED

IS FOR ALLIES TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT RECOVER, LORD CECIL SAYS—GOVERNMENT AS ONE MAN ON MAIN PRINCIPLES OF BRITAIN'S WAR POLICY—FOREIGN OFFICE WHITE PAPER WILL GIVE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH BLOCKADE IS BASED.

London, Dec. 23.—The most important speeches at the closing session of the House of Commons, before the house adjourned tonight for the Christmas recess, were made by Lord Robert Cecil, under secretary for foreign affairs, Walter Runciman, president of the Board of Trade, and A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty.

Lord Robert Cecil's speech was in the nature of a general defence of the foreign office. He denied rumors of dissensions in the cabinet, of dissensions among the Allies, and of pro-German influence in the foreign office. He would shortly issue a white paper, stating the principles on which the British blockade of Germany is based.

"Until the resignation of one or more members of the cabinet," he said, "everyone is bound to accept the view that it is united on the main lines of its policy. As to the unity of the Allies, they have carried on the war in a manner which if one could judge history is a really unexampled performance of unity."

"Suggestions have recently been made, in various forms, that some one in the foreign office is in the pay of Germany, or at least, is pro-German. This is a grotesque and serious charge. It shows that there are some people who are unable to stand the strain of war, and become mere hysterical neurotics, when things are not going right, for the moment, such people think the proper course is to turn on the men who are trying to serve their country and show 'traitor'."

"This is a disgraceful, un-British state of things. It is utterly destructive of the morale of the country, and it is the duty of every patriotic man to stamp on these things. I assure the House that everything that could be legitimately done to prevent goods going into Germany has been done. One of the members of the House of Commons has said that the only way to go to war with the neutral countries is to go to war with the neutral countries heart and soul into the attainment of the main object."

"That is entirely untrue," the president said. "I would not like it to be imagined in France, in Russia and in Italy that in preparing for future contingencies we were contemplating an early peace. There is no peace to which we could be a party if it would in any way conflict with the interests of the Allies."

Germany's Trade Crippled.

"The great difficulty in a blockade is to discriminate between goods with an enemy destination and those generally for consumption in neutral countries.

"As to our Balkan policy, the aim, throughout, has been to produce in those unhappy countries unity instead of discord. The suggestion that the foreign office rejected an alliance with, or the assistance of, Greece, is absolutely without foundation."

Mr. Runciman spoke of the steps the board of trade was taking to prepare for commercial conditions after the war, beginning with the declaration:

"So far as commerce is concerned, Germany is a beaten nation, and it is for us to see that it does not recover."

Mr. Balfour, replying to various speakers who had complained of the shortage of ships for mercantile purposes, said that the whole possibility of carrying on the war rested on the British navy and its mercantile fleet. He was willing to confess that there had probably been some wastage of tonnage, but to win battles.

"We cannot expect to carry on a war with the same economy that we manage the port of Liverpool or Hull," said the first lord. "The main thing has been to see that every warship was ready to fight wherever required, and that every soldier was supplied with all necessary to make him the best fighting unit."

He urged that the wisest remedy for the shortage of tonnage was to go on with the building of merchant ships which, he thought, should be recognized as war work, second only to the manufacture of munitions.

CHRISTMAS MAIL.

London, Dec. 23.—"As far as commerce is concerned Germany is a beaten nation, and it is for us to see that it does not recover," Mr. Balfour, replying to various speakers who had complained of the shortage of ships for mercantile purposes, said that the whole possibility of carrying on the war rested on the British navy and its mercantile fleet. He was willing to confess that there had probably been some wastage of tonnage, but to win battles.

COPENHAGEN, VIA LONDON, DEC. 23.

A despatch to the National Tidende from Christiania says that Henry Ford left Christiania secretly for Bergen, where he is expected tonight to go aboard the Norwegian-America steamer Bergenhus, in order to return to the United States. The despatch reports that the reason for Mr. Ford's sudden departure was said to be that his doctor had ordered him to rest his tired and overworked nerves. The remainder of the expedition, ignorant of Mr. Ford's departure, left for Stockholm today, the despatch says.

FORD LEAVES UNKNOWN TO REST OF PARTY

Quits Christiania Secretly for Bergen—Reported Doctor Ordered Rest Cure.

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There will be no issue of The Standard tomorrow. To the readers of this paper sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas are extended.