

MORE WOMEN AND CHILDREN CAPSIZED ESCAPING FROM FRENCH LINER TOPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING

Survivor's Story of Sinking of Steamer Ville De La Ciotat Reveals Inhuman Action by Submarine Pirates, Who Jeered at Victims Fighting for Life in Mid-Ocean.

London, Dec. 23.—The submarine which appeared on the surface shortly after the French steamer Ville De La Ciotat was torpedoed off the island of Crete, flew the Austrian flag, according to a despatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Malta today. "It is learned from survivors," says the despatch, "that the vessel was off Crete, on her way from Japan for Marseilles, when at 10 o'clock on the morning of December 24, without the slightest warning, she was shaken by a terrific explosion, following which a submarine appeared flying the Austrian flag. There were on board 262 passengers, for the most part French, among whom were thirteen children, a number of women, and three officers and a crew of 168, the sailors being chiefly Lascars.

Boat Carrying Women and Children Capsized. "Following the explosion, there was a terrific rush of water through a big hole in the stern, yet there was no panic. The passengers gathered on deck, showing the greatest coolness. Five lifeboats and two rafts were released. One of the boats, loaded with women and children, capsized, and all in it were drowned, and another boat was smashed against the steamer's side. "Before the rest on board were able to leave, the vessel took her final plunge, to which the majority of the deaths were due. "Passengers say that a Dutch steamer and a Greek steamer were in

The Honor Role

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—The following is the midnight list of casualties:

- First Battalion Reserve Artillery Brigade
Died—John H. Courtenay, St. Thomas, Ont.
- Fifth Battalion
Wounded—Frederick Birch, Nutana, Sask.
- Thirteenth Battalion
Killed in action—Sergt. John Lawson, Scotland.
- Fourteenth Battalion
Died of wounds—Arthur C. N. Ray, England.
- Twenty-eighth Battalion
Wounded—Archibald M. Waugh, England.
- Thirty-first Battalion
Wounded—John McGuire, Scotland.
- Thirty-sixth Battalion
Seriously ill—Benjamin Wright, England.
- Sixtieth Battalion
Seriously ill—Richard Cummings, England.
- Second Canadian Mounted Rifles
Shell shock, now on duty—Sergt. S. work.

GREAT ACTRESS REPORTED DYING



Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt is reported to be dying, according to a despatch received from Paris. The great actress has never fully recovered from the shock following the amputation of a leg last February. Reports of improvement in her condition were invariably followed by others that her health was failing. On December 5 she became seriously ill, her physicians announcing that she was suffering from congestion of the lungs. Mrs. Bernhardt is now seventy-one years old.

NATURE ON ALLIES' SIDE AT SALONIKI

Few Sites Better Suited, in Point of Natural Defences, for Requirements of Scientifically Warding off an Attack.

London, Dec. 23.—A despatch from Belter's correspondent at British headquarters in Macedonia says: "The new defensive lines laid out by the Entente Allies around Saloniki make a sweep of about fifty miles in a wide semi-circle from the Vardar river to the Gulf of Orphanos. Nearly half this distance is naturally defended by lakes Lanasna and Beslik. "Few sites are better suited by nature to the requirements of a scientific defence. The position is very similar to the Turkish lines at Tebriz, where the Bulgarians suffered their only defeat at the hands of the Turks in 1912, save that the valley here is broader and the hills higher. "The whole of the fifty mile arc enclosing Saloniki is surrounded by a broad valley which is a morass in parts, and would afford little cover to an advancing foe. The hills within the fortified lines furnish admirable gun emplacements, commanding all approaches. On the slopes toward the north there still remain the trenches where the Turks intended to make their last stand during the first Balkan war, and some of their barbed wire entanglements have been utilized by the Entente Allies. "Many interesting archaeological specimens have been unearthed during the trench digging, and there are numerous tumulus mounds within the fortifications which may later be opened."

German Admiralty Silent.

Berlin, via London, Dec. 23.—The German admiralty has no information of the sinking of the French steamer Ville De La Ciotat in the Mediterranean.

Turks at Dardanelles Subjected To Heavy Fire by Allies.

Constantinople, via London, Dec. 23.—The following official communication was issued today: "The Dardanelles front: Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy artillery fired a great number of bombs against our right wing. The enemy also directed an incessant fire with his machine guns and dropped bombs and aerial torpedoes against our left wing. Our artillery replied and silenced the enemy artillery and destroyed a portion of the enemy trenches. "On December 25 enemy airmen succeeded in dropping bombs in the neighborhood of Halatkoj. We seized all the useful articles from enemy transport vessels wrecked on the coast of Biyak Kemikli (Cape Sula)."

NOT FAVORED AS A SUITOR, KILLED FATHER

Montreal, Dec. 23.—Polycarpe Paradis, of St. Cesaire, Que., arrested early this morning on suspicion of being implicated in the murder of Francois Frchette, a farmer of St. Cesaire last night, is said by Chief Guertin, who made the arrest, to have confessed that he shot Frchette, with whom he had quarrelled over a daughter of the murdered man because Paradis' advances as a suitor were not received with favor.

Washademoak, Dec. 24.—Mr. John West is engaged in extensive lumber operations on the property of Richard Hetherington where he has a crew at work.

Fixes Amount of Daily Rations in Budapest.

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 23.—A despatch received from Budapest says the Official Gazette has published a government order fixing the daily consumption of rye wheat and barley flour at 240 grammes per head for the general population, and at 300 grammes for persons engaged in heavy physical labor.

GOVERNMENT AGREE PLEDGE OF PREMIER ASQUITH TO THE MARRIED MEN MUST BE KEPT

Continued from page one.

The truth is that in some where in the middle ground between these two views. It is admitted that difficulties have arisen in connection with the Derby figures—that in certain parts of the country single men have not enrolled in such numbers as would warrant an impartial tribunal in declaring that only a negligible percentage remains outside. It may be confidently stated that the cabinet, as a whole, accepts this fact.

Agreed Asquith's Pledge To Married Men Must Be Kept

Premier Asquith's pledge, as stated specifically in an open letter to Earl Derby, stands good, and the cabinet is agreed it must be fulfilled in the letter and the spirit, for the government considers that the premier's unequivocal pledge to the married men was the sole reason for the wholesale response of the married men. Up to the moment of that declaration the married men held back, but as soon as Mr. Asquith's pledge was given they stepped forward in numbers which were a surprise even to Lord Derby. "There is a considerable body of opinion which believed that the time has not yet arrived to go to the extreme length of putting wholesale compulsion into effect. This opinion is held by a large number of men who are not unrepresented in the organized law of the country. "The supporters of the voluntary system are emphatic in declining to abandon it until some means have been found which would mean a change cannot be made a success. The morning newspapers long ago lined themselves up on the present issue, but the evening newspapers have taken a more unpartisan view. This opinion, therefore, is more interesting. The following extracts are characteristic: "The Pall Mall Gazette says: 'The cabinet in fact is still felt that the cabinet will meet in a united body, with a plan that will meet the imperative needs of the situation, and at the same time dispose of the demand for a general election until a later date.' "The Westminster Gazette says: 'The task of patriotism at this moment is to keep silence, or, at least, to say nothing that can embarrass and hamper the government.' "The Star says: 'The crisis which has arisen over the Asquith pledge is purely factitious. It is the work of intriguers, who for months have used every imaginable weapon to break up the government. The cabinet will, of course, be dissolved, but the will of the country, however, beyond question is that the minister should slink and preserve and preserve national unity. The Asquith pledge can be kept without splitting the government and the nation.' "The Evening Standard says: 'Premier Asquith cannot be acquitted of all responsibility for embarrassing the situation. His inveterate habit of postponing decisions has encouraged hopes which ought never to have been entertained. His only course now is to act boldly and promptly. Let him take the nation into his confidence, and face the consequences. The country will respond with enthusiasm, and the intriguers will be defeated.' "The importance, as far as military operations and political prestige is concerned, of the minister presenting a united front to the nation and her allies, to say nothing of the effect produced by disruption in encouraging the enemy is fully grasped and its effect cannot fail to have its effect. "There is a further possibility to be considered. This is that the announcement of an immense number of applications would have such an immediate effect upon the regard that it may never become necessary to put the measure in operation. "Should the week intervening before the introduction of the bill show such a sudden rush of recruiting as to justify the hope that it would be unnecessary to resort to compulsion there will be a great chance for the cabinet to preserve its unity. Premier Asquith has always shown a marvellous faculty of holding his cabinet together and it would not be surprising to find that the mere threat of compulsion would have the effect of dispersing all of the government's difficulties in this respect. "Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer; Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, and the labor minister, Arthur Henderson are regarded as the most likely to resign. Other known opponents of compulsion are Louis Harcourt, Sir John A. Simon, Thomas McKinnon, Wood, and Sir Stanley O. Buckmaster. The fact that Premier Asquith has been able to make the momentous announcement that in his opinion the time had arrived when steps

should be taken to prepare for conscription, however, must have had an enormous effect upon the most determined of the supporters of the voluntary plan, that it is believed that there will be at the most, only a few resignations. "Opposition in Commons Certain. "In the House of Commons the bill is almost certain to meet a decided opposition from the Irish and Labor members. The Irish opposition is so passionate that there are even rumors that Ireland will be deliberately excluded from the operations of the contemplated bill. The Labor party, while it is distinctly anti-conscriptionist, so far has not actually bound its representatives in parliament and in the cabinet on the question, and, although Arthur Henderson and two other Labor ministers, William Bruce and Geo. Roberts, regard themselves as committed definitely to the voluntary plan, the attitude of the party may possibly undergo a modification in view of the opinion that the premier is supporting the military authorities and that the circumstances make compulsion urgent. "Much naturally will depend upon the effect of the premier's exposition of the situation and the revelation of Lord Derby's recruiting figures next week, until when no resignations are likely to be presented. "It is understood that all proposals to give the Derby scheme another trial for a fortnight were firmly opposed by Lord Derby himself in the editorial comment of most of the morning papers. The conscriptionist newspapers naturally are pleased with the decision, while the opponents of the plan mostly content themselves with stating that no consideration should be ventured until the Earl of Derby's recruiting figures are known. "The Times says the precise scope of the proposed bill will be the subject for further discussion and that the cabinet's decision was largely due to the strong advocacy of the project by David Lloyd George, the minister of munitions, and some of his Unionist colleagues. "The Times anticipates that there will be at least two cabinet resignations, Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, and Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade. "The newspaper remarks that resignations sometimes are infectious. Concerning the effect of the project on the country the Times says: "Few persons ever advocated the principle of compulsion for its own sake, and most people would probably have been glad if the war could have been won without it. But the dominating desire of the country is to win the war, and if compulsory recruiting

present circumstances, would be a national calamity, no one, except those battling expressly for or against compulsory service with any weapon that comes handy, gives credence to the suggestion that any preponderant section of the cabinet will support such a solution, while fully one third of the voters of the country are in the fighting line. "That the prime minister will redeem his pledge as between married and single men as recruits is not questioned in any responsible quarter, and the best informed persons are quite anxious that some satisfactory formula will be found, before parliament meets, which will represent the judgment of at least a great majority of the cabinet if not of every individual member. "According to official announcement this evening, no statement respecting the attitude of the cabinet may be looked for for some days, and it is not likely that Premier Asquith will make his promised announcement to the House of Commons before January 6. "The appointment of a successor to Baron Hartington, viceroy of India, is expected at an early date, and it is rumored that a member of the cabinet will be selected to fill the position be correct, that would obviously lead to a re-arrangement of the existing officers. "Forecasts Resignation of McKenna and Runciman. "The cabinet decision with regard to modified conscription became known too late to be considered in the editorial comment of most of the morning papers. The conscriptionist newspapers naturally are pleased with the decision, while the opponents of the plan mostly content themselves with stating that no consideration should be ventured until the Earl of Derby's recruiting figures are known. "The Times says the precise scope of the proposed bill will be the subject for further discussion and that the cabinet's decision was largely due to the strong advocacy of the project by David Lloyd George, the minister of munitions, and some of his Unionist colleagues. "The Times anticipates that there will be at least two cabinet resignations, Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, and Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade. "The newspaper remarks that resignations sometimes are infectious. Concerning the effect of the project on the country the Times says: "Few persons ever advocated the principle of compulsion for its own sake, and most people would probably have been glad if the war could have been won without it. But the dominating desire of the country is to win the war, and if compulsory recruiting

WIENNA REPLY TO U.S. NOTE THIS WEEK

Vienna, by courier to Berlin, via London, Dec. 23.—The answer of the Austro-Hungarian government to the American government's note concerning the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona is expected this week. Frederick Penfield, the American ambassador, had not received the reply up to Monday evening, however.

Russian Report.

Petrograd, Dec. 23, via London, Dec. 23.—The official communication from general headquarters today reads as follows: "Western (Russian) front: In the region of Riga, south of Lake Balbi, the Germans attempted to approach our trenches, but were repulsed by our fire. Some of the Germans succeeded in getting near our barbed wire, but were driven back to the trenches by a sortie of our men. "The remainder of the front, as far as the Pripiet region, has been subjected to the usual rifle and artillery fire. South of the Pripiet and in Galicia the fighting continues, the encounters being of a desperate character. "Caucasus front: There is nothing to report. "W. J. Mahoney has returned from Melrose where he had spent Christmas. "It is shown to be imperative, we believe the nation will accept it in the same determined spirit it has shown throughout the conflict. The need for men has become very real and urgent. "The Daily Chronicle, an anti-conscriptionist journal, admits that the country will accept compulsion if it is proved to be necessary.

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Saloniki in all Hps Witness astonishing as

A graphic description of Greek port where Allied armies have landed Expediton and are building Impregnable Defences.

Saloniki, Dec. 23.—In all the varied history of Saloniki, I suppose no situation has been quite so astonishing as the present. Climbing up the steep slope of the old town, and standing on the summit of the Roman and Turkish walls, which, with useless battlements and towers still divide the swarming streets from the wild and empty country outside, one looks west over the wide bay to the perpetual snow of Olympus beyond it. Southward to the left stands Polla, separated from Olympus by the Vale of Tempe. Northwards, beyond the unwholesome plains and marshes of the Vardar, one looks to mountains, which the Serbians claimed by conquest for their own not much more than two years ago. Far away, already gleaming with snow, stand the twin peaks called Peristeri, or "Doves," rising above Monastir, from which the whole Serbian immigrant population is reported yesterday to have hastened away in panic at the Bulgarian approach. "But the famous harbour at one's feet, so deep that steamers can berth their sterns close up against the quay, is crowded with such a collection of shipping as it has never held before. Warships of the Great Powers lie there—torpedo boats, destroyers, mid-shipcraft with five funnels from Russia, massive French vessels piled up with armament, and at least one of those strange new British ships which carry a flat projecting platform all round their sides just below the water's line, and themselves serve as platforms for two huge 14-inch guns projecting from a turret at the foot of the single tripod mast. Great transports, bringing men and food for men, lie there too. And there are the hospital ships, distinct in their white and broad green lines, and great red crosses illuminated at night, also with red lamps and rows of green lights, like fairy vessels ready to carry home the victims of the war. "The water still lapped between the walls, except where villas have been taken out along the seashore southward, is still marked by the multitude of minarets and cupolas which the Turks have lost, and by a red-tiled roof common to the Balkans. But what an admixture of all the nations and races of the world one now finds in its streets. I believe the basis of the original population is chiefly Jewish, Jewish men in long fur-trimmed robes, Jewish women in green and scarlet head-dresses, and some arrangement of gauze or muslin over their breasts, still look very much like the ancient Jews who sought refuge among the Turks from the Christianity of Spain, and they flourish and abound. But the Greeks must rival them now, and a good many Turks are left. "On the top of these natural fortifications is now imposed a great Greek army—three or four army corps, I believe—suddenly mobilized at British expense, some people say. Well-equipped in khaki, their officers very smart and still wearing the obsolete sword, they crowd all the main streets leading their pack animals out to their camps, discussing the situation with hereditary eloquence, or just loitering equal the cafes. They are enough to fill the town to overflowing, but on the top of them again are imposed the French and the British as well. Not so many French as British perhaps, for the French camps and lines are further away, but for both armies this is the base, and the impatient strategists who command their governments at once to move 250,000 men here and 250,000 there might learn in Salonika what a base means—what it means to move 150,000 or even 50,000 men with all their arms, guns, horses, ammunition, mess, flour, bakeries, tools, telegraphs, posts, barbed wire, medical stores, staff departments and goodness knows what. Let the impatient strategist remember the last move of his army and furniture to new houses, and then for a single army corps, multiply the time and trouble by about 10,000. "So here, side by side with the neutral Greek and our French ally, we see the British soldier, imperturbable as the rock in the midst of an unprecedented storm, driving his motor lorry through apparently impenetrable mud, leading up his supplies, carrying messages for the staff, calling on the office "King's House" and an officer "Crystal Palace," saluting Greek officers with some hesitation and trying to enjoy the Greek coffee at the bottom of the Turkish coffee. "Along the main road beside which the railways and the tramway branches, part to Monastir and part to Ukiub, the work of the base camps is carried on, and the sections of French, British, and Greek stand side by side, easy to distinguish by the habits of each nation. But as they pass the kilometre stones along the road the camps gradually separate themselves out, the