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WAS SUNK BY AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE

French Liner Was Torpedoed off the Island of Crete—Many Passengers Were Caught on the Doomed Ship Which Sank Quickly

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A submarine which appeared on the surface shortly after the French steamer Ville de la Clotat flew the Austrian flag, according to a despatch from Malta today. It was learned from survivors, says the despatch, that the vessel was off Crete on her way from Japan for Marseilles, when at ten o'clock in the morning of Dec. 24, without the slightest warning, she was shaken by a terrific explosion following which the submarine appeared flying the Austrian flag. There were on board 263 passengers, for the most part French, among whom were thirteen children, a number of women, thirteen officers and a crew of 168, the sailors being chiefly Laccars.

Britain to Protest Against Swede's Act

SWEDEN HOLDS UP 1500 BAGS OF MAIL, BOUND FROM ENGLAND TO RUSSIA—NO FORMAL PROTEST YET MADE. LONDON, Dec. 29.—While, as far as can be ascertained, no formal protest has yet been made by the British Government to Sweden over the reported detention of 1,500 bags of mail bound from Great Britain to Russia, official circles admit the Foreign Office has sent the Swedish Government an outline of its attitude on the subject of such a detention.

GERMANY ANXIOUS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

GENEVA, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Tribune from Vienna says that Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg is expected at Vienna shortly, with full conditions under which the Central Powers will accept peace. After discussing the terms with Baron Von Burian, the Austrian Foreign Minister, the conditions will be officially communicated to the Allies, Germany suggesting that the first conference be held at the Hague.

SWELLING THE LIST

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A news agency despatch from London today says that the British steamer Van Strum has been sunk by a submarine. The Van Strum was 3284 tons, and had been in the Admiralty service since the opening of the war. She was 331 feet long.

Sensational Press Reports Arouse London to a Pitch of Excitement

Police Were Forced Repeatedly to Clear Downing Street of Crowds—Yesterday's Cabinet Meeting Was of a Decisive Character—Premier Will Make a Statement on Whole Question of Recruiting in Commons Wednesday Next Week—Anti-Conscriptionists Very Active During the Debate

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The sensational press reports of the Cabinet situation aroused such public interest that at yesterday's assembling the police were forced repeatedly to clear Downing Street of crowds. In the absence of any official statements it is difficult to say exactly how serious is the present situation in the Cabinet. Members certainly maintain an appearance of outward calm, which would hint that the difficulty is one more of matter in deciding on methods and details than any radical difference on basis and principles. The Press has again divided itself into two groups which may most readily be defined in the American phrase as "for and against the Government." The latter group is hopelessly outnumbered.

Yesterday's Cabinet meeting, although it failed to secure an agreement of all the Ministers upon the vexed question of the Voluntary System versus Conscription, was of a very critical and decisive character and virtually reached the decision that the application of force may become necessary before all eligible single men are effectually brought to the colors. It was, therefore, resolved that at the earliest opportunity the Bill should be introduced into Parliament in order that the Government have the necessary power should it be found no other course effective. To this end Asquith is expected to make a statement on the whole question in the House of Commons on Wednesday or Thursday of next week, announcing the speedy introduction of a bill of a permissive character making service obligatory on unmarried men who have failed to attest under Earl Derby's scheme.

India aspires, and also to permit the recruiting of a strong national Indian army.

BULGARS TO ENTER GREECE?

A Despatch From Sofia Says Bulgarian Government Has Been Informed Greece Will Not Object if Military Operations Make Step Necessary

BERLIN, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Tagas Zeitung from Sofia, the newspaper Narodni Prava says that Greece, through its Minister at Sofia, has informed the Bulgarian Government that Greece does not object to Bulgarian troops entering Greek territory, if this step is unavoidably necessary in the interest of military operations. Premier Radoslavoff has expressed his thanks for the communication, and assured the Greek Minister that Bulgarian troops on Greek soil would not harm Greek interests, but on the contrary, would aid them.

ITALIAN PASSENGER STEAMER SUNK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—An unconfirmed report from Rome says that an unidentified Italian passenger steamer was torpedoed while on the way to Catania, in Sicily, with the loss of eight lives, reached the State Department late today. It is not reported whether any Americans were on board. The American Embassy at Rome is investigating.

Strong Turk Force Routed by British

ENEMY ATTACKED BRITISH FORCES ON CHRISTMAS DAY BUT WERE REPULSED, LEAVING OVER TWO HUNDRED DEAD ON THE FIELD.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Co. from Cairo says: "It is announced that operations on Christmas Day on the west in the Egyptian front, were completely successful. The enemy tribesmen, with a force of three thousand strong, were driven back, leaving two hundred dead on the field. Effective support was given the British force by gunfire from the ships. A British official statement issued Monday, said: "On December 25th the principal Arab force near Mers Matruh (Materuh) was attacked and dispersed with trifling loss to the British troops."

TO MAKE BIG RAID ON EGYPT

Number of Trains Loaded With Munitions Are Sent to Turkey—Germany Has a Mixed Force of 500,000 to Move Against Suez Canal

PARIS, Dec. 29.—Telegrams from Bucharest declare that Field Marshal von Mackensen is directing preparations for a powerful expedition against Egypt, says a Havas despatch to Rome. In advice to the "Messagero" from the Roumanian capital, it is added that a number of trains loaded with munitions have been sent to Turkey including one train of 25 flat cars laden with the parts of two sixteen-inch mortars and shells for use of the guns. The shipment is destined for use in the Egyptian campaign.

Reports that Germany is preparing to move against the Suez Canal and Egypt with a mixed force of Turks, Germans and Austrians are current in Paris. Some of the reports go with various details, it being said, for instance, that the army is likely to consist of from 500,000 to 800,000 men and that a four track railroad is being built half across the desert towards Suez.

MCKENNA & RUNCIMAN TO RESIGN?

LONDON, Dec. 29.—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.

Conscriptionist papers are pleased with the decision while the opponents of the plan mostly content themselves with stating that no considered opinion can be ventured until Earl Derby's recruiting figures are made known.

The Times says: The precise scope of the proposed bill will be subject for further discussion and that the Cabinet's decision was largely due to the strong advocacy of the project by David Lloyd-George, and some of his Unionist colleagues. The Times anticipates that there will be at least two Cabinet resignations—Reginald McKenna and Walter Runciman. The newspaper remarks that "resignations sometimes are infectious."

GOVERNMENT EMPOWERED TO DEAL WITH MATTER

LONDON, Dec. 28.—It is stated on excellent authority that the Cabinet has virtually decided upon a modified form of conscription.

A Bill is to be introduced into the House of Commons next week, giving the Government the necessary power should it be found needful to bring in single men and preserve Premier Asquith's pledge to married men.

FRANCE WANTS WAR NOT PEACE

French Minister of War Greeted With Prolonged Applause in Senate as he Asks For Class 1917 Recruits For Jan. 5

PARIS, Dec. 29.—"Eighteen months ago France wanted peace. To-day she wants war most energetically and to that end will use all her resources," said General Gallieni, Minister of War, when asking the Senate to-day to approve of the action of the Chamber Deputies in giving him the Class of 1917 recruits for January 5. General Gallieni's remarks were greeted with prolonged applause. "Whoever says the word 'peace' on the streets is considered a bad citizen," continued the Minister of War. "Mothers are not mourning for lost sons, they want them avenged. The 1917 Class will leave with the assent of the nation. It demands those charged with the duty to receive and instruct these young men and prepare them for the great contest which will not end before France, in accord with her Allies, says: 'I stop; I have obtained what I wanted; I now recommend the work of peace.'"

Redoubled applause here interspersed, while shouts of "excellent" came from the entire Senate, which arose as a mark of honor. Returning to his Ministerial seat, General Gallieni received the congratulations of his colleagues. The Upper House immediately passed the bill and authorized the public posting of the Minister's address.

Allies Defense Around Saloniki Well Laid Out

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A despatch from Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters in Macedonia says:

"The new defensive lines laid out by the Entente Allies around Salonika make a sweep of about 50 miles in a semi-circle from the Vardar River to the Gulf of Orphanos. Nearly half this distance is naturally defended by Lakes Langaza and Beskik and few sites are better suited by nature for the requirements of scientific defence. The position is very similar to the Turkish lines at Tchaldja where the Bulgars suffered their only defeat at the hands of the Turks in 1913, save the valley here is broader and the hills are higher. The whole 50 miles encircling Salonika are surrounded by a broad valley which is a morass in parts and would afford little cover for advancing for the hills within the fortified lines furnish admirable gun emplacements commanding all approaches. On the slopes remain the trenches where the Turks intended to make a last stand and wire entanglements have been utilized by the Entente Allies. There are numerous tumulus mounds within the fortifications which may be opened later."

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A despatch from Paris says that nine German and Austrian submarines have been sunk or captured in the Mediterranean Sea, according to the Figaro. "When official reports are compiled it is believed that these figures will be exceeded, the paper says."

The Balkan Situation Is the Most Peaceful For Several Weeks

Central Powers Seem to Regard Attacking Saloniki as an Embarrassing Undertaking—Austrians Claim Russians Have Met With Enormous Losses—Bulgars Are Entrenching Themselves Well Behind Greek Frontier—British Making Necessary Preparations to Protect Suez Canal and Their Egyptian Positions

LONDON, Dec. 29.—While there has been a considerable renewal of activity at several points on both Eastern and Western fronts in the past 24 hours, the situation in the Balkans is the most peaceful in appearance for weeks. Despatches from both German and Entente Powers are in agreement that the probability of an Austro-German-Bulgarian offensive against Salonika is disappearing with the withdrawal of the Bulgarian frontier guards to purely defensive positions well behind the Greek frontier. The Vienna correspondent of the Associated Press declares the Central Powers have come to regard any offensive against Salonika as a measure promising only embarrassment and no advantages. In fact the Central Powers are inclined to regard the huge Allied force at Salonika as safely copped up and that, therefore, it would be more to the advantage of the Central Powers to let it remain there than on the Western front.

A German official statement admits the French advance on Hirzstein, but gives no details. There has also been further activity in the Vosges district, with intense artillery fighting along the whole front and around Hartmannswillerkopf.

Vienna reports the Russians have attacked fiercely on the Dniester and in Bessarabia. An Austrian communication speaks of the Russians advancing in serried lines, fifteen or sixteen deep, which their artillery broke up with huge Russian losses. Despatches from a German source says a terrible battle has been going on since Friday in Bessarabia.

From many isolated fronts come the reports of preparations for spring campaigns, either in the form of a change in the location of large bodies of troops, or in the building of

PRIME MIN. WILL REDEEM HIS PLEDGE

Expected in Most Quarters That Premier Asquith Will Make Good His Promise as Between Married and Single Men as Recruits

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The Cabinet held another two and a half hours session to-day, devoted presumably, mainly to the recruiting problem. There are likely to be several further meetings before a final decision is reached and made public.

In view of Asquith's recent announcement in the Commons that a General Election under present circumstances would be a national calamity, none 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 Asquith's will redeem his pledge as between married and single men as recruits is not questioned in any responsible quarter. Best informed persons are quite sanguine that a satisfactory formula will be found before Parliament meets, which will represent the judgment of, at least, the great majority of the Cabinet, if not of every individual member.

According to an official announcement this evening no statement respecting the attitude of the Cabinet may be looked for some days, and it is not likely that Asquith will make his promised announcement to the Commons before January 6th.

The appointment of a successor to Baron Harding as Viceroy of India, is expected at an early date. If rumors that a member of the Cabinet will be selected to fill the post be correct that would obviously lead to a rearrangement of existing offices.

GLOUCESTER SCHOONER POSTED AS MISSING

GLOUCESTER, Mass., Dec. 28.—The fishing schooner Ella M. Doughty, commanded by Capt. Diggin, and carrying a crew of five, which sailed from here on Nov. 3rd for Bay of Islands, Nfld., was given up as lost to-day by the owners.

No report of the vessel has been received since she sailed from Gloucester.

BULGAR REGIMENT MUTINY

Paris, Dec. 29.—The Eleventh Bulgarian Infantry Regiment, stationed at Gumludina, Bulgaria, has mutined, according to information reaching the Athens correspondent of the Petit Journal.

INDIAN CONGRESS OPENED

Ten Thousand Delegates Present at Annual Meeting—Patriotic Speeches Special Feature of Sitting—India Aspires to Self Government and National Army

BOMBAY, Dec. 29.—Ten thousand delegates, representing all communities, were present to-day at the opening of the annual meeting of the India National Congress, which was notable for the loyal and patriotic utterances of the speakers.

That millions in India are waiting to serve the Empire was the keynote in the opening speeches. In his presidential address, Sir Satyendra Sinha said: "The supreme feeling of India was one of admiration for the self-imposed burden that Great Britain was bearing in the struggle for liberty and freedom and we take pride in the fact that India has proved herself not one whit behind the rest of the Empire in the assistance given the Mother Country."

Continuing, Sir Satyendra expressed the hope that such spontaneous outbursts of loyalty and devotion will dispell for ever all mistrust and suspicion between the Indians and their rulers. The speaker admitted the time had not yet arrived for self-government in India, but he urged the British Government to approve ungrudgingly of the goal to which

PEACE TERMS WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GERMANY

Restoration of Belgian Sovereignty—No Annexation of French Territory—Separation of Poland—Restoration of all German Colonies—An Annual Contribution From Belgium—News Bureau Disavows That Article is a German Peace Feeler

Paris, Dec. 29.—The Wolff Bureau has circulated to-day among German newspapers an exhaustive summary of an article from Neu-Zuricher, Zeitung of Zurich, Switzerland, purporting to give terms upon which, according to this paper, Germany is ready to consider peace. These correspond generally with the outline of the probable peace terms published in October.

The terms named include the restoration of Belgian Sovereignty under certain conditions, no annexation of French territory, separation of Poland from Russia as an independent kingdom under a German prince, the restoration

of all German colonies and payment of an indemnity which would assume the form of a transfer to Germany, of Russian indebtedness to France, amounting to some eighteen billions of francs and payment for a term of years of an annual contribution by Belgium equal to the amount hitherto spent annually on Belgian military estimate.

Whether Belgian territory would be restored entirely, is not specified in newspapers; but it is stated that the country be policed, that is garrisoned by Germany until all payments of contribution were ended; and that measures would be taken to prevent Belgium from serving as an Anglo-French outpost either by treaty arrangements, or perhaps through pledges turned over to Germany; the latter phrase apparently referring to retention of Meuse Fortress.

The Wolff Bureau is careful to disavow authoritatively that the article is interpretable as a German peace feeler.