

Allies Make New Landings in Greece and in Asia Minor; Russian Effort Winning Roumania to Her Part in War

A FRENCH EXPEDITION BLOCKS ROAD TO EGYPT; BRITISH IN AIR RAID

London, Dec. 30.—Two new landings by the Allies in the near east are reported today. The British have transferred some troops from Saloniki to Orfanio, a small Greek port sixty miles east of Saloniki, with the intention of thus checking any possibility of a hostile advance from this quarter. The second landing was made by the French on the Greek island of Castelozzo, off the southeast coast of Asia Minor, not far from the important seaport of Adalia. An Athens dispatch says that the occupation of Adalia is the object of a strong Allied force would menace the communications of any hostile force operating against Egypt or the Lower Tigris region.

These movements indicate that the Allies' positions around Saloniki are now considered secure, and indications are that the campaign around Saloniki will develop into a long drawn out warfare, as on other fronts.

Rome reports that the Central Powers have begun a general withdrawal from the entire Macedonian front, owing to the serious Russian campaign in Bessarabia, but this lacks confirmation. In the Entente capitals, however, there is a general opinion that the Russian campaign in Bessarabia, which has been undertaken in the face of unfavorable weather conditions, is likely to have an important bearing on the whole war situation. According to one version, Russia's new move is the forerunner of the impending Roumanian entry into the war on the side of the Entente.

The Paris Mail's Russian correspondent writes: "Russian joint operations with Roumania are on the point of beginning. Roumania will fight with us, although not for us. Her siding with the Entente is not the result of French or English sympathies, but an endeavor to realize the Roumanian dream of sovereignty over Bukovina and Transylvania. As preparation for Roumania's entry into the war, Russia's aim is to reconquer Bukovina for the benefit of her new ally. This task can be accomplished in a few weeks.

"The Roumanians will then fortify the new province, and march with the Russians through Bulgaria and Transylvania, while simultaneously the Italians, French, British and Serbians will deal blows on other fronts."

Successful British Air Raid

London, Dec. 30.—The British official statement on the campaign in the western zone, issued tonight, reads as follows:

"Yesterday sixteen of our aeroplanes bombed the Comines station and the station lines and sheds in the vicinity. Ten of our aeroplanes attacked heavily the aerodrome and did considerable damage. In both cases all the machines returned safely.

"During the day there were twelve encounters with hostile aeroplanes. One of our machines engaged four of the enemy's, one of which is believed to have been brought down. Another was damaged, and all four were driven off. One of our aeroplanes was brought down as the result of a combat with two machines.

"During the night the enemy heavily shelled our trenches south of Fricourt. A few Germans entered one of our front trenches, but were immediately driven out.

"The weather has been fine. Our artillery has been active at several places on the front. North of Ypres there has been activity on both sides."

French Explode Munition Depot.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"In Artois our artillery exploded a munition depot in the southwest of Beaumont. Between the Arve and the Oise our trench guns were active, energetically bombarding enemy works and destroying a munition depot in the sector of Beaumont. Between the Oise and the Aisne our batteries destroyed machine gun shelter in the Bally. To the north of Soissons the fire of our artillery, directed by aeroplanes, silenced and damaged a German battery.

"In the Vosges, the cannonade was very active during the course of the day, especially in the regions of Hartmannsweilerkopf, Metz and the Lingé. One of our shells caused in the wood to the northeast of Mulbach, valley of the Fecht, five successive and powerful detonations. In the region of Rehefen a German attack with grenades was easily repulsed.

"The Belgian official communication reads: 'The activity on the front held by the Belgian army was less pronounced today than during the preceding days. Artillery duels took place chiefly in the environs of Dixmude and further to the south.'

"Army of the Orient: On December 29 our aeroplanes bombarded the parks and encampments of the Bulgarians at Viterik, east of Lake Dolina. There is nothing to report on this side of the Greek frontier.

"Expeditionary corps of the Dardanelles: Great activity of both artillery and aeroplanes on Dec. 29 and 30. The enemy has directed his fire principally against the trenches at Seddul Bahr. The morning of the 29th a French cruiser violently bombarded the Turkish batteries on the Asian coast. In the afternoon a hostile aeroplane, which attempted to fly over our lines, was driven off by Allied aeroplanes."

Montenegrins Drive Back Enemy.

Cettinje, Dec. 30, via Paris, Dec. 30.—After heavy fighting for three days between Austrian and Montenegrin troops the Austrians are in retreat on one part of the front, the war office announced today. The statement follows:

"There is violent artillery fighting along the whole front of the Sarajak army. The enemy continued his attacks against Raskovogora, but the Austrians, after three days of tenacious fighting, are now retreating."

"There is no change on the other fronts."

Russian Artillery Successful.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 31.—The

RUSSIAN BLOW FORCES GERMAN RETIREMENT

London, Dec. 30.—The Germans and Austrians have begun a general withdrawal along the entire front in Macedonia, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Rome quoting a message from Saloniki to this effect. The reported withdrawal is attributed to the Russian advance in Bessarabia; the message states:

Whole Eastern Front Changing.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 30.—The German and Russian official bulletins regarding the operations south of the Pripiet river incidentally declare that the battle is proceeding. The importance of the engagements seems to be considered by the Russian military critics as great.

The general staff commentaries lay stress on the difference between these struggles and the last notable collision between the Russian and German forces in the period of calm. The battle of Chortovka, Nova Alexianca, and elsewhere between the Pripiet river and the Carpathians, were sporadic and designed only to correct positions on different parts of the line before the cessation of strategic movements on account of the approach of winter.

It is agreed now that a struggle is proceeding on the entire southwest line, and that apparently it is equally evident everywhere. It is intimated that both sides are aiming at the accomplishment of exceedingly important tasks.

The Russians and Germans are equally alert each side here and there taking the initiative.

The expectation here is that the outcome of this gigantic but still obscure struggle will be a transformation of the military positions in the Russian theatre of war. While it is pointed out that the occupation of Sher-Sul was a tactical move of petroleum and benzine belonging to the British.

"Caucasus front: There have been no important events, only patrol engagements."

"Dardanelles front: December 27 and 28 our artillery, replying to the fire of a hostile cruiser and torpedo boat, silenced the guns of those vessels, which without effect had directed their fire against the forts and batteries at Gallipoli, and compelled them to withdraw.

"Near Seddul Bahr, on the 27th and 28th there was violent grenade fighting and cannonading on the right wing and in the centre. During the afternoon two cruisers shelled our right wing, but ceased firing because of the counteraction of our artillery and wireless. One of the cruisers had been hit. During the forenoon our artillery brought down an aeroplane that was flying over Yenikiche and Kum Kalder. It fell into the sea in the vicinity of Tekke Buruu and Seddul Bahr.

"On December 27 one of our aeroplanes undertook reconnaissance trips over the islands of Lemnos and Myro, and successfully dropped bombs in the harbor of Myro, at Myro, which was set on fire. Otherwise there is no news."

German Reports Successes.

Berlin, via Saville, Dec. 30.—Heavy fighting continues in the Vosges. An announcement is made by the war office that positions near Hartmannsweilerkopf have been reconquered by the Germans. A British surprise attack near Lille failed. The text of the statement follows:

"Western front: During the night of December 29 to enter our positions northwest of Lille by surprise failed. A German enterprise at night at a point south-east of Albert succeeded and several dozen British were captured.

The Germans reconquered positions near Hartmannsweilerkopf. On the whole front artillery and aeroplanes were active. The enemy's aircraft attacked the Downs and railroad stations of Werwick and Menin (Belgium). No military damage was inflicted, but seven civilians were wounded and one child was killed. A British aeroplane was shot down in a fight northeast of Canabral.

"Eastern front: Russian detachments advancing south of Schlot (near Gulf of Riga) and on General Von Linsingen's front, were repulsed. Gen. Von Bothmer's Austro-Hungarian troops repulsed an attack of strong Russian forces against the bridgehead at Burkanow on the Stripa (in Eastern Galicia). The enemy suffered heavy losses in addition to losing 200 prisoners."

Austrians Admit Naval Losses.

Vienna, via London, Dec. 30.—The official statement, issued today from general staff, reads as follows:

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TURKS SLEPT WHEN TROOPS WITHDRAWN

Official Announcement Confirms Report of Sinking Austrian Destroyers

GERMAN AEROPLANES PURSUED AT SALONIKI

Insurance Rates on Mediterranean Shipping Doubled—Neutral Steamers in American Trade Sunk in North Sea—Austrian Note Handed to U. S. Ambassador Relieves Situation by Announcing Punishment of Submarine Commander.

London, Dec. 30.—The Reuter correspondent at British headquarters at the Dardanelles, under date of Dec. 21 sends the fullest description yet received from any source of the departure of the British forces from the Suvla and Anzac zones. While he evidently has been permitted to send only the most general details, the despatch adds considerably to the information heretofore available.

He emphasizes particularly the surprise which all the British authorities felt at the complete success of their efforts to hoodwink the Turks.

"The withdrawal was completed in the small hours of the morning," says the correspondent. "Soldiers, guns, horses, mules, transports, vehicles of all kinds, the entire reserve of ammunition, and nearly all the stores, were removed from the beaches under the eyes and under the guns of the powerful Turkish army, which never realized that the operation had been begun until some hours after the last officers of the beach parties had slipped into the picket boats and steamed away."

"The probability of a withdrawal had been reckoned with by the British troops for many weeks. Field Marshal Earl Kitchener had made a careful personal examination and kept his counsel, but everybody else was not so discreet, and there really was little excuse for the Turks failing to realize what was in the wind. They of course, counted on the difficulty and danger of the operation as likely to deter the attempt."

NO EXPECTATION OF WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT LOSS.

"The question of what proportion the loss would be had been carefully weighed by the British higher command. That the thing could be done without loss entered nobody's mind. The problem was to withdraw divisions and their equipment, occupying a front 20,000 yards long, and hardly anywhere more than about 500 yards, and at some points not fifty yards from the enemy's trenches, and embank them from the beaches, which nowhere were beyond field gun range of the enemy, and at many places were actually within rifle range."

"The Turks occupied the higher ground all around. Nearly the whole Suvla position was visible to them, and the main embanking beach could be overlooked from Sniper's Ridge, 1,100 yards away."

During the days preceding the withdrawal, the Turks kept up the usual daily quantity of shells at the usual intervals, and the British guns replied. On Sunday this fire was as usual.

"Sunday night the greatest activity began secretly in the British camps. By 4 o'clock in the morning everybody was off but the parties sent in to search for stragglers, who were taken off as late as 8 o'clock in the morning. At 3.26 in the morning, sappers at Anzac exploded a huge mine between them and the Turks on Russel's top, which is a neck between the two ridges, along which it was not desirable that the Turks should follow the retiring 'Anzacs.'

"This had the desired effect. The Turks thought the Australians were attacking, and maintained a furious rifle fire forty minutes. Shortly afterwards a tongue of flame shot up from the beach on the south of Suvla Bay. A great pile of abandoned foodstuffs, soaked with petrol had been fired. Soon afterwards more flames made their appearance on the west beach, and during the last two hours of the night huge waves of flames reddened the sea and sky for miles around, and columns of thick black smoke towered hundreds of feet high in the windless air.

"Surely, everyone thought, this will wake the Turks up. They were welcome to make their discoveries now. But even the angry glare of the sky, which must have been visible for many miles, failed to attract the attention of the Turks."

TRANSPORTS AWAY BEFORE TURKS KNEW.

"At daybreak every transport was clear of the bay, and only the warships remained. These began to fire on the beach, breaking up the piers, sunken ships and water tanks on the general principle of leaving nothing but fire-wood for the enemy."

"At length the Turks awoke. They saw the fires and began to fire on them. They must have seen that the ships were firing on their own positions, but perhaps they thought the Anzacs had gone mad and were firing on each other."

"The Turks in Suvla Bay for a long time had no inkling of the reality, as they plastered the British positions where there was not a soul, with high explosives for hours, and were still doing so when the battleship from which the correspondent was watching the entertainment departed at 9 o'clock."

"The Turks were somewhat spry in the Anzac zone. They could be seen climbing out of their trenches and peeping into ours soon after daybreak, but the shells of the warships sent them back in a hurry. The heritage of the Turks amounted to a few picks and shovels and a number of hospital tents. All the guns were brought off except five, which were destroyed, including two worn out howitzers."

"It cannot be said that the troops were sorry to leave, but in view of the dire forebodings of a few days ago, all are keenly satisfied with the success of what will rank as one of the most brilliant operations in military history, carried out in the face of an enemy 55,000 strong."

TURKS SLEPT WHEN TROOPS WITHDRAWN

Safe Re-embarkation of 100,000 Men in Face of Enemy One of Most Brilliant Military Operations of All History

Transports Out of Sight and Warships Breaking Up Landing-stages With Their Fire Before Enemy Detected Absence of Soldiers in Trenches Opposite—Nothing of Value Left.

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COMPELSION ONLY DURING WAR; BILL DOWN WEDNESDAY

Premier Asquith Sees King and Ministerial Crisis Likely Averted

LABOR HEADS CALL CONFERENCE

General Meeting of Trade Unionists on January 6 to Decide on Attitude of Organized Labor—Suggest That Special Taxes on Those Exempt May Be Demanded as Price of Compulsion.

London, Dec. 30.—It was announced this afternoon that Premier Asquith would introduce, in the house of commons on Wednesday next, a bill dealing with compulsion.

An audience which Premier Asquith had with the king today gave rise to reports of actual cabinet resignations. It is stated, however, on the best authority, that this was not the case, and that Premier Asquith saw the king with reference to the general situation and the New Year's honors.

The draft committee of the cabinet, which is said to include Sir John Skimm,

engaged in preparing the proposed bill, is reported to have rejected two or three drafts already, but has now virtually settled on the method, which will be to make the Derby scheme statutory and only for the duration of the war. The men who have not attested will be ordered to enroll themselves within a given period of a fortnight or three weeks.

It is said that the government is confident of its ability to pass the bill through all stages in a fortnight, that several days before parliament would file a natural death, but for the bill prolonging its life. This bill has still to run the gauntlet of its final stages, and if obstructive tactics should be adopted with regard to the compulsory recruiting measure, it might still be possible for the ministers to resort to a general election as an exit from a difficult situation.

This, however, is not regarded probable. In fact, the feeling in political quarters tonight is more confident than ever that the crisis will entail no resignations of importance. The fact that the king returned to Sandringham last night seems to confirm this view.

LABOR CALLS CONFERENCE.

A special trades congress, to which all societies affiliated with the Labor movement are invited to send representatives, will be convened in London, Jan. 5, to consider the government's bill for compulsory enlistment.

The calling of the congress is the result of a protracted conference of the parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress, the executive committee of the Labor party and the management committee of the General Federation of Trades Unions, held today under the presidency of Arthur Henderson, president of the board of education.

An official report of the conference says: "The national situation arising out of the government's proposals with regard to the compulsory enlistment of single men was very fully discussed. It was agreed that the importance of the issue involved is so serious that any decision on behalf of the trade union and Labor movement could only be reached by a national conference of representatives of the entire movement."

This recommendation subsequently was discussed with the parliamentary Labor party, and received its full concurrence. One reason for the recommendation, the official report on the conference says, was "the very pronounced views expressed by the resolution of the Trades Union Congress last September. That resolution strongly opposed conscription in any form."

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LEWIS HARCOURT IS NON-COMMITTAL

London, Dec. 30.—I have nothing to say as the eulogistic answer of Lewis Harcourt, first commissioner of works in the British cabinet, when questioned over the long-distance telephone today regarding the report that he had re-

signed to assume the vice-royalty of India.

Mr. Harcourt, who was at Nuneham Park, Oxford, resolutely declined either to confirm or deny the report. His name has been frequently mentioned as the probable successor to Baron Haldane, and the absence of a denial might be regarded as confirmatory. On the other hand, persons very close to the first commissioner of works aver that they have no knowledge of such an appointment.

Of course, the strictest etiquette surrounds any official intimation of such nominations, and this can only be issued after the king has signed the warrant of appointment.

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RT. HON. ARTHUR HENDERSON, President of the Board of Education, whose counsel is to his fellow-Laborites is to accept the modified form of compulsion proposed by the Asquith government.