

BRITAIN'S NAVY STRIKES ANOTHER SMASHING BLOW AT GERMANS; SINK ARMORED CRUISER AND BADLY CRIPPLE TWO OTHERS OF ENEMY'S WARSHIPS

British Patrolling Squadron, Under Vice-Admiral Beatty, Sight Four of Enemy's Ships Heading for English Coast — Running Fight Followed and German Armored Cruiser Sent to Bottom—British Superior in Numbers, Enemy Took Flight After Two More Had Been Badly Crippled — Driven Into Mine and Submarine Territory by British—Tiger, Lion, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable in British Squadron—None of England's Ships Lost and Only Eleven of Crews Wounded—Light Cruisers and Destroyers Which Accompanied Fleet Also Engaged.

London, Jan. 24, 10 p. m.—An attempt by a German cruiser squadron to repeat the attack recently made on Scarborough, the Hartlepool and other British coast towns, was frustrated today by the British patrolling squadron, and in a running fight the German armored cruiser Bluecher was sunk, and two German battle cruisers were seriously damaged.

The British ships suffered only slight injury. So far as is known only 123 of the Bluecher's crew of 885 were saved.

A battle also occurred between the light cruisers and destroyers accompanying the big German ships, but the result of this engagement has not yet reached the Admiralty.

The British were superior in ships engaged, weight of armament and speed and the flight of the German ships into the mine and submarine infested field possibly saved them from further losses.

Bluecher 15,500 Tons Displacement.

The Bluecher was a cruiser of 15,500 tons displacement, and although commissioned in 1909, was completely re-rigged last year. She was not classed as a battle cruiser, but was in the next class to those formidable fighters. With her were the Derflinger, Germany's latest battle cruiser, which had just left the builders' hands, and the battle cruisers Seydlitz and Moltke, the latter a sister ship of the Goeben, formerly of the German, but now of the Turkish fleet, which was recently reported damaged by the Russians in the Black Sea.

The British squadron, commanded by Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty, who also was in command at the battle off Heligoland last August, consisted of the battle cruisers Tiger, Lion, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable. The first three of these cruisers mount eight 13.5-inch guns each, and even the New Zealand and Indomitable carry 12-inch guns which are equal to those of the Derflinger, the only one of the German ships that had better than 11-inch guns.

Official Account of Fight.

The official report issued by the press bureau gives the following account of the engagement:

London, Jan. 24, 7.45 p. m.—The German armored cruiser Bluecher, 15,500 tons, has been sunk in the North Sea, and two other German warships have been damaged, according to a statement issued this evening by the official press bureau.

The text of the official press bureau statement follows: "Early this morning a British patrolling squadron of battle cruisers and light cruisers, under Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty, with a destroyer flotilla under Commodore Tyrwhitt, sighted four German battleships, several light cruisers and a number of destroyers, steering westward, and apparently making for the English coast.

German Ships Turned and Fleed.

"The enemy at once made for home at high speed. They were pursued and at 9.30 a. m. action was joined between the battle cruisers Tiger, Lion, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable, on the one hand, and the Derflinger, Seydlitz, Moltke and Bluecher on the other. A well contested running fight ensued. Shortly after one o'clock the Bluecher, which had previously fallen out of line, capsized and sank.

"Admiral Beatty reports that two other battle cruisers were seriously damaged. They were, however, able to continue their flight, and reached an area where dangers from German submarines and mines prevented further pursuit.

British Losses only Eleven Wounded.

"No British ships have been lost, and our casualties in personnel, as at present reported, are slight, the Lion, which led the line, having only eleven wounded and none killed.

"One hundred and twenty-three survivors have been rescued from the Bluecher's crew of 885, and it is possible that others have been saved by some of our destroyers. No reports of any destroyer or light cruiser fighting have yet been received at the Admiralty, though some has apparently taken place.

"Their Lordships have expressed their satisfaction to Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty."

The Bluecher Was a New Ship.

The German armored cruiser Bluecher was a comparatively new vessel. She was built at the Kiel Yards in 1909 at a cost of \$6,500,000, and three years later most of her big guns were replaced. The Bluecher was 489 feet long 80 1-3 feet beam, and her complement consisted of 847 officers and men.

The Bluecher carried twelve 8.2-inch guns, eight 6-inch guns, and sixteen 24-pounders. She also was equipped with three torpedo tubes. The Bluecher was capable of travelling a little more than 26 knots.

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GERMANY TAKES EXCEPTION TO WARLIKE PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY IN ROUMANIA

London, Jan. 24.—The Paris Temps prints the following from Petrograd: "Germany, in a note to Roumania, declares that the measures undertaken by the latter country, which are tantamount to mobilization orders, and its encouragement of a revolutionary propaganda in Transylvania, are hostile acts."

Paris, Jan. 24.—No official confirmation is obtainable here of the report from Petrograd that Germany has protested to Roumania because of the latter's attitude toward Austria. It is said in official circles, moreover, that such a protest ordinarily would be made by Austria, under the circumstances, rather than by Germany.

HON. MR. HAZEN THE BUSIEST MINISTER AT THE CAPITAL

At His Desk From Early Morning Until Late at Night Winning Great Praise for Mastery He Shows in Administering His Own and Gen. Hughes' Department—Rigid Inspection of Second Contingent.

Special to The Standard
Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 24.—The second Canadian contingent will be subjected to a much more rigorous inspection than was the first contingent. Indeed, the inspection is now under way and satisfactory reports in most cases are being received at headquarters from Major P. Donville of the 10th Regiment, Hamilton, who has been appointed secretary of the board of inspection. The members of the board are Col. John Hughes of Clarke, Ontario, and Lieut. Col. S. C. Newburn of Hamilton.

The arrangements for the recruiting, mobilization, quartering, organization and training of the units is receiving special attention and extra good care is being taken as to the qualification, capacity and general fitness for service of the officers of such units. The clothing, arms, ammunition, equipment, horses, etc., are being thoroughly examined by the board. A special note of the state of discipline of each unit. Unless perfect discipline is apparent the troops show-

ing any lack of such discipline will not be allowed to go. Hon. J. D. Hazen, who is acting Minister of Militia and Defence, has had a conference with Col. John Hughes, who is in Ottawa today, and expressed his approval of the strict inspection which is going on as well as satisfaction at the excellent reports which have been received.

Mr. Hazen is the busiest Minister in Ottawa today. His own department is exacting, and in addition to it he has the care of what is in these war times the most important department of the government and any error in the administration of which would be costly. From early morning until late at night Mr. Hazen is hard at work. He combines the two qualities of being able to administer the general work of the department and at the same time keep a grip upon the details of its workings. It was because of this that General Hughes before he went west again asked that Mr. Hazen be appointed in his stead. On the former occasion that he acted as Minister of Militia his work gave great satisfaction to the other members of the government.

IMPERIAL CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY EXPLAINS WHAT HE MEANT BY THE PHRASE "A SCRAP OF PAPER"

Its Meaning Was Distorted, He Claims — Incidentally He Declares England Drew Sword in Her Own Interests and Not to Avenge Belgium.

General field headquarters of the German army in France via Berlin and London, Jan. 24.—"I am surprised to learn that my phrase 'a scrap of paper' which I used in my last conversation with the British ambassador in reference to the Belgian neutrality treaty should have caused such an unfavorable impression. The expression was used in quite another connection, and the meaning to that implied in Sir William E. Goschen's report, and the turn given to it in the biased comment of our enemies, are undoubtedly responsible for this impression."

The speaker was Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, and the conversation with a representative of the Associated Press occurred at the German army field headquarters, in a town of northern France.

The Chancellor then volunteered to give an explanation of his meaning, which in substance was that he had spoken of the treaty, not as a scrap of paper for Germany, but as an instrument which had become obsolete through Belgium's forfeiture of its neutrality; and that Great Britain had quite other reasons for entering into the war, compared with which the neutrality treaty appeared to have only the value of a scrap of paper.

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"My conversation with Sir Wm. Goschen," said the Chancellor, "occurred August 4. I had just declared in the Reichstag that only fire necessity and only the struggle for existence compelled Germany to march through Belgium, but that Germany was ready to make compensation for the wrong committed."

"When I spoke I already had certain indications, but no absolute proof upon which to base a public accusation, that Belgium long before had abandoned its neutrality in its relations with England."

"What was the British attitude on the same question?" asked the Chancellor.

"The day before my conversation with Ambassador Goschen, Sir Edward Grey had delivered his well known speech in parliament in which, while he had not stated expressly that England would take part in the war, he had left the matter in little doubt."

"One needs only to read this speech through carefully to learn the reason for England's intervention in the war. Amid all this beautiful phrasing about England's honor and England's obligations, we find it over and over again expressed that England's interests—its own interests—call for participation in the war, for it is not England's interests that a victorious and, therefore, stronger Germany should emerge from the war."

"England drew the sword," continued the Chancellor, "only because it believed its own interests demanded it. Just for Belgium neutrality it would never have entered the war."

"That is what I meant when I told Sir Wm. Goschen in that last interview that among the reasons which had impelled England to go into the war the Belgian neutrality treaty had for her only the value of a scrap of paper."

"I may have been a bit excited and aroused," said the Chancellor. "I recalled to the ambassador my efforts for years to bring about an understanding between England and Germany; and understanding, I reminded him would have made a general European war impossible, and which absolutely would have guaranteed the peace of Europe."

"Such an understanding," the Chan-

NOT DUTY OF A NEUTRAL TO STOP CONTRABAND FROM REACHING ENEMY

U. S. Government Issues Defense of Its Interpretation of Rights and Duties of Neutral Nation—Answer to Complaints of Unfair Treatment Towards Germany and Her Ally—Says Canada Was Refused Permission to Ship War Equipment Across Alaska—In Every War Superior Naval Power Has Interrupted Neutral Commerce at Sea.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The United States government today issued a lengthy defence of its interpretation of the rights and duties of a neutral in the European war.

A document, five thousand words long, prepared by President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and Counsellor Robert Lansing, of the State Department, after several days of consultation, was made public in the form of a letter from the Secretary of State to Senator Stone, of Missouri, chairman of the

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

While the letter is a reply to an inquiry from Senator Stone for information as a result of complaints made in the press, and in letters from various parts of the country, charging the Washington government with unfairness to Germany and Austria, it also is intended as a pronouncement of policy on some questions of neutrality previously unexplained.

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BOMBS DROPPED BY BRITISH AIRMEN AT ZEEBRUGGE BADLY DAMAGING ONE OF GERMANY'S SUBMARINES

Many of Submarine's Crew Killed and Wounded — British Aviator Surrounded by Enemy Makes Escape — German Airship Brought Down and Pilot Captured—American Consulate at Dunkirk Damaged by Bombs from German Airship and U. S. Consular Agent Injured.

London, 24.—While German airmen on Friday morning were dropping bombs on Dunkirk, one of which damaged the American consulate, two British aviators paid a visit to Zeebrugge and succeeded in damaging a submarine, and killing or wounding the crews of the guns mounted on the mole, to prevent attacks from the sea on that German base.

The British official report, issued Saturday night, says that apart from the breaking of windows and the smashing of the furniture of the American consulate, "no particular damage was done. It makes no reference whatever to the Paris report that six persons were killed and a number of others wounded at Dunkirk and it is therefore not known whether this report covers the attack of the German airmen, who according to unofficial despatches, dropped as many as eighty bombs on the French port."

One of the British aviators was Squadron Commander R. B. Davies, who recently made a night flight over Bruges, dropping bombs on the railway station there. Prior to reaching Zeebrugge, Commander Davies was surrounded by seven German airmen and, although slightly wounded, succeeded in making his flight along the coast and returning safely.

"One of the twelve or thirteen bombs dropped by German aviators on Dunkirk Friday, fell just outside the American consulate, broke all the windows and smashed the furniture."

U. S. Consular Agent Injured.
Paris, Jan. 24.—Benjamin Moran, United States Consular Agent, at Dunkirk, France, was injured when the American consulate was damaged by a bomb during the German air raid Friday, according to the Dunkirk correspondent of the Figaro. The correspondent adds that the consulate of Uruguay and Norway also were damaged.

ENEMY PREPARING FOR ANOTHER ATTACK IN VOSGES MOUNTAINS

Berne, Switzerland, Jan. 24 (Via London)—Great military preparations are being made today in Alsace, and it is believed by military observers here that the Germans are about to begin a violent offensive movement against the French along the front in the Vosges mountains.

All the railways in Southern Germany will be reserved tomorrow for the transportation of troops to the frontier. From one district alone, that of Constantine, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, 8,000 fresh reserves are reported to be moving towards the border.

"In comparison with such momentous consequences was the treaty not a scrap of paper."