

# VARNA, BULGARIA'S CHIEF PORT ON BLACK SEA, REPORTED OCCUPIED BY RUSSIAN FORCES

## Must Aim at Getting Every Fit Man, Asquith Says; Asking For Vote of Another Million

Every Available Man Should be Put in Field, Unless National Necessities Demand He be Kept at Home

Premier Gives General Survey of War Theatres—Have Been Errors and Miscalculations, but Will of Nation Never Wavered, Resources are More Ample and Becoming Daily Better Mobilized for Purpose of Victory.

London, Dec. 21.—Moving in the House of Commons a new vote for an additional million men, Premier Asquith made a general survey of the war, and the increasing responsibility placed on this country for providing arms and men.

Great Britain, he said, already has a fighting force in the various theatres of 1,550,000 men, and as the war is enormous the country must aim at getting every man of military age who is physically qualified.

The premier pointed out that whatever system was adopted to obtain the services of these men, distinction should be made before it was possible to arrive at the recruitable maximum which the country must seek to obtain. He regretted he was unable to give the results of the Earl of Derby's recruiting system.

Applications to enlist under the Derby plan had been made from distant Hong Kong and Rhodesia. "There is a commentary on the jethary of those at home who have not responded to the call," he said.

"Let those who have hung back, for good or bad reasons, seize the opportunity even now of following the example patriotically set them by the great mass of the people."

A large proportion of the wounded the premier said, was able to return to duty, but in addition to keeping up the present armies to their nominal strength men were wanted for new formations and to increase the aggregate of Great Britain's fighting forces. Every available man should be put in the field, so far as was consistent with provisions for national necessities, including munitions and the vast field of employment, upon the continued working of which the national life depended.

Turning to the Dardanelles campaign, Premier Asquith said: "It was with deep reluctance that we sanctioned the withdrawal, especially from Anzac, where our Australian and New Zealand kinsmen won undying fame. This withdrawal did not involve withdrawal from Helles (at the tip of Gallipoli), where our combined naval and military forces commanded the entrance to the Straits."

"Everything was brought off, except some stores and six guns, which were destroyed."

"So far as we in this country are concerned—and I know all our allies are the same—our will has never wavered for a moment, while our fighting resources, both in men and in material, become every month more ample in quantity and better mobilized and organized for the purposes of the campaign."

Referring to the measures recently taken to bring about closer co-operation among the allies, Mr. Asquith said it was hoped by all the nations concerned that this procedure would lead to greater concentration of purpose, co-ordination of plans, common energy and effectiveness of action. He added it was satisfactory, though not surprising, to know there was not one of the allies, "who is not as determined as ourselves to win the war, and to have nothing whatever to do with separate peace, but to persist, at all costs, until our supreme and common purpose is achieved."

Turning to the military situation, the premier said that the retirement from the Dardanelles position—with the notable exception of the position at the tip of the peninsula—had been taken on the advice of Gen. Monro and Earl Kitchener.

"The retirement," he continued, "was an operation of peculiar hazard, for the least misjudgment might have led to serious loss. It was carried out by the navy and army, combined, in a manner for which no praise could be too high, and which will give the services enduring fame in the annals of warfare."

Not a Life Lost. "With the exception of a relatively small proportion of the stores and a very few guns, which had to be left behind and which were destroyed, the whole force at both places was removed with perfect serenity. The total casualties—it seems almost incredible—in the whole operation were two military and one naval, wounded."

"I am sure that the houses which take the earliest opportunity to express its admiration and gratitude to General Monro for carrying out these difficult operations; while other officers deserving special praise are General Birdwood and Admiral Wemyss, the latter supervising the naval operations."

"It is most gratifying to know that these splendid troops were embarked to a new destination without the loss of a single life, and after a short and much needed rest, they will be ready—and, I am sure, also eager—to resume their gallant career."

Summing up the government's war policy Premier Asquith said: "In order to win the war, we want an adequate supply of trained men to reinforce and augment the army in the field. We want, next, an ever-growing supply of munitions. We want, further, such a stewardship of the economic resources of the country as will enable us to lift and carry the financial burden which we are called upon to bear in behalf of ourselves and our allies."

### OFFICIAL LISTS SHOW ENEMY'S CASUALTIES TO NOVEMBER 20TH 2,524,460

London, Dec. 21.—Harold J. Tennant, parliamentary under-secretary for war, made the statement in the House of Commons today that the total number of casualties published in the official lists from Prussia, Saxonia, Bavaria and Wurttemberg, up to November 20 were 2,524,460. Of this number, Mr. Tennant added, 484,228 men were killed or died of wounds, 354,198 were severely wounded; 27,674 died of disease, and 281,410 were missing. Naval casualties, he said, were not included in these figures.

### WILL ACCEPT NO STERLING SECURITIES

Invitation to Holders of American and Canadian Securities to Place them at Disposal of Imperial Treasury.

London, Dec. 21.—The London Gazette publishes today a government invitation to holders of American and Canadian dollar securities to place them at the disposal of the treasury, either by sale or loan. The accompanying memorandum says that no purely sterling securities will be accepted, and that it is essential that all securities tendered be expressed in United States or Canadian currency, or if expressed in sterling that they shall be convertible at the holder's option into dollar securities.

No bonds will be accepted on which dividend or interest has not been regularly paid since the date of issue, and no stock will be accepted unless a dividend of three per cent. or over has been regularly paid on it since January 1, 1913.

All securities tendered must be supported by a statement of a banker or other responsible party that they have remained in the physical possession of the holder in the United Kingdom since Sept. 30, 1914. Subject to these conditions the following will be acceptable: Any securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange, United States government bonds, United States state or municipal bonds, securities of United States railroads or public utilities companies, Canadian government, provincial and municipal bonds and Canadian railway securities.

Bonds and stocks of industrial corporations, it is stated in the invitation, will not, as a rule, be acceptable, "except in the case of large corporations, such as the United States Steel Corporation, etc." All lists totalling less than \$25,000 except in the case of insurance and trust companies, must be submitted to a member of the stock exchange, whose commission will be paid by the treasury. As it will be impossible for the treasury to accept more than a limited amount of securities under this scheme for the present it is announced that the invitation may be temporarily withdrawn at any time.

Holders of American securities are reminded that if they do not avail themselves of the invitation they can still contribute materially to the object sought by selling their securities in the open market and re-investing the proceeds in British government securities.

## Varna Laid in Ruins and Russians Land Forces to Hold the Town

BULLETIN—London, Dec. 22—The Daily Chronicle reports the capture of Varna, Bulgaria's chief Black Sea port, by the Russians. It says the bombardment of the Russians silenced the Bulgarian guns and laid the town in ruins, the garrison suffering heavily.

The Russians then, according to the report, landed infantry and artillery without loss and in sufficient force to hold the town against Bulgarian attacks.

### MORE CHANGES AMONG BRITISH ARMY LEADERS

Lieut. Gen. Sir Wm. Robertson Back from France to Succeed Lieut. Gen. Sir Archibald Murray Who Takes Important Command.

London, Dec. 21.—"Sir Ian Hamilton is not returning to the command in the Near East. If any other duties are assigned him, an announcement will be made in due course."

This was the enigmatic reply of Premier Asquith in the House of Commons today to Sir Edwin Arnold Cornwall who desired to learn what was the disposition to be made of the general who was formerly in command of the expeditionary force at the Dardanelles.

When the British forces withdrew from the positions at Suvla Bay and Anzac, on the western shore of the Gallipoli peninsula, their total casualties were three men wounded, according to an official announcement made this afternoon.

Six guns, which were destroyed, were left when the British withdrew from the position, it was added. Premier Asquith announced in the House of Commons today that Lieut. Gen. Sir Wm. R. Robertson, chief of the general staff, had been recalled from France to become chief of the imperial staff at army headquarters in London in place of Lieut. Gen. Sir Archibald Murray, who is about to receive an important command.

### SPAIN PREPARES TO TAKE A HAND?

Carbineers to Turn Over Mouser Rifles and be Armed with Latest Design Remingtons—Recruits Training.

New York, Dec. 21.—A news agency despatch from Gibraltar today says: Great significance is attached by British military officers to recent activities among the Spanish forces.

An order issued today authorizes 60,000 Spanish carbineers to surrender their mouser rifles and substitute Remingtons of the latest design. Large numbers of Spanish recruits are constantly training.

### PRESIDENT OF UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

Calgary, Alb., Dec. 21.—James Speakman, president of the United Farmers of Alberta, died today.

### LONDON LOOKS FOR EARL DERBY'S PLAN SECURED 2,500,000 MEN?

Pour Parleys in Progress Between Central Powers and Greece Regarding Joint Attack on Allies at Saloniki by Bulgars and Germans.

London, Dec. 21.—The only additional details of the withdrawal of the British forces from the Gallipoli peninsula revealed from British sources today were those gleaned from Premier Asquith's speech in the House of Commons, in which he stated that the British losses were confined to three wounded, a few guns abandoned, after being rendered useless, and an insignificant amount of stores which were left behind.

From Russo-German sources, several new details reached London. The Constantinople official communication gave the Turkish side of the withdrawal, and it was somewhat amplified by a Constantinople despatch circulated through the Berlin wireless.

Both these despatches claimed that there had been "enormous British losses" along the Suddul Bahr front, and the taking of an immeasurable amount of booty on the evacuation of the positions.

From the Turkish account it appears that the retirement was aided by a heavy fog, while terrific British attacks from the Suddul Bahr position, which has not been abandoned, provided a feint diversion.

Aside from the text of these despatches no fresh details have been published in London, and all the London newspapers refrain from speculation regarding the manner of the withdrawal.

Scotland Yard tonight issued a note of warning to worshippers that if they desire to hold watch night services they must take care to observe the orders regarding the shades of lights in churches, as "the possibility of attacks by hostile aircraft at this time of the year cannot be disregarded."

The Russians are reported, unofficially, to have bombarded and occupied Varna, with a sufficient number of men to hold the Bulgarian Black Sea port against attack. The town, according to this report, was laid in ruins, and the Bulgarian garrison suffered heavy casualties.

There has been renewed British submarine activity in Turkish waters, Athens reporting that a British underwater boat sank the German steamer Leroc and several other craft in the Sea of Marmora.

The situation on the Greek front remains tranquil, although the greatest activity prevails in the allied camps and the port of Saloniki. The proposed entry of Bulgarians into Greece, with a German army, is at present the subject of diplomatic pour parleys in Athens, and the Greek public is more keenly aroused over this matter than any phase of the situation which heretofore have threatened to precipitate a crisis.

The results of the Greek elections are interpreted by the press favorable to former Premier Venizelos as a defeat for the government, it being declared that the returns show that nearly nine-tenths of the electorate followed the adherents of Venizelos in refusing to go to the polls.

twelve o'clock noon today an airship passed over North Ameland bound in a western direction.

Bad Weather in West. Paris, Dec. 21.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight: "The bad weather has hampered the operations on the greater part of the front."

In Belgium and between Soissons and Rheims, our artillery bombarded communicating passageways and dispersed revictalling convoys of the enemy.

In Champagne, German works at the Butte Du Mesnil were bombarded. A destructive fire on an enemy salient on the Roupit Height, to the north of Pont A Mousen, gave good results.

In the Vosges at Hartmanns Weckstein, a strong attack by our troops, delivered after an artillery preparation, permitted us to occupy an important part of the enemy's works and to make prisoners.

The Belgian official communication reads: "An artillery action on both sides of a somewhat violent character, occurred on the Yser front. Our batteries bombarded all the German works to the north of Dixmude, and the advance post at Dentoren. A block-house, erected on the dyke of the Yser was completely destroyed by our projectiles. The enemy cantonments at Essen and at Clercken were vigorously cannonaded."

A Different Version. New York, Dec. 21.—The Turkish official communication of December 20, as received in London, differs somewhat from the statement which came from Berlin by wireless. The communication by way of London says:

"Constantinople, Dec. 20, via London, Dec. 21.—The enemy saw that success for our attack against the north was unavoidable, and embarked the night of December 19-20 with all haste, a part of his forces. Nevertheless, despite the thick fog, the enemy could not hinder pursuit by our troops during the retirement."

"The latest reports today say that our troops so thoroughly cleaned Anafarta and Aviburnu of the enemy that not a single soldier remains behind there. Our troops advanced to the coast, and captured great quantities of booty, including munitions, tents and cannon."

"The hostile attack at Suddul Bahr, December 19, took the following course: The enemy maintained for a time a vigorous fire from his land guns of all calibres and from mortars and cruisers against our positions. Then he attacked, with all his forces, our right wing and the centre of the left wing successively, but our troops checked the attack, and drove back the attackers with enormous losses to their positions."

Russian Report. Petrograd, via London, Dec. 21.—The following official communication was issued today: "Our aviators successfully bombarded the rear approaches to the enemy's positions in the Godutzyacht-Komag region east of Sviatjany, causing a panic among the convoys."

"On the Galician front, at Novo Alexinco-Buczacz, and southeast of Zaitchchiki, the enemy attempted to pass to the offensive, with small detachments, but all his attempts were frustrated by our fire."

"On the Caucasus front there is nothing to report."

On Italian Front. Rome, via London, Dec. 21.—The following official communication was issued today: "In the Piizzo Basin, the enemy, to bring off a spanking rally, as the result of which the figures jumped from 74,000 on one day to 238,000 on another, and during the last strenuous week 1,539,000 men attested, while during the whole nine weeks of the campaign some 2,500,000 attested."

### EARL DERBY'S PLAN SECURED 2,500,000 MEN?

Member of Recruiting Committee Says Only 127 Enlisted First Week, and 1,530,000 Were Attested Final Week.

London, Dec. 20.—(Delayed)—James O'Grady, member of parliament for East Leeds, and a member of the joint committee, contributed an article to the Daily Sketch, recording the progress of enlistment under Earl Derby's scheme.

Mr. O'Grady says that the first week produced only 127 recruits. Matters slowly improved, but even up to the end of November, the response was not satisfactory.

"We therefore resolved," said he, "to bring off a spanking rally, as the result of which the figures jumped from 74,000 on one day to 238,000 on another, and during the last strenuous week 1,539,000 men attested, while during the whole nine weeks of the campaign some 2,500,000 attested."

### ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF GOLD TO NEW YORK FROM GREAT BRITAIN

New York, Dec. 21.—The steamship California, of the Anchor Line, arrived here tonight from Glasgow and Liverpool with \$2,500,000 in gold in her strong room, and an unknown amount in a square wooden case, marked "British treasury notes."

with the help of the fog, occupied one of our advanced positions in the direction of Kovitinka torrent, and protected it by a barrier of mines. On the night of Sunday one of our infantry detachments, by a surprise attack, re-occupied the position before the enemy was able to explode any of his mines.

"On the rest of the front the situation is unchanged."

British Official Statement. London, Dec. 21.—The British official communication issued tonight says: "There were bombing engagements Monday night about the quarries north of Loos, and a considerable enemy rifle fire opposite Armentieres, where some mine craters are in dispute. There also was considerable hostile shelling north of Loos, and about Ypres. We retaliated."

"Today enemy artillery has been active at the same places. Our artillery retaliated effectively. The enemy made determined efforts to occupy the craters opposite Armentieres, accompanying their attack with artillery barrage (curtain of fire). After stubborn bombing contests both attacks were repulsed. The enemy exposed himself freely and lost heavily."