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MANY REPORTS OF GREAT BATTLE IN NORTH SEA; CHURCHILL, IN COMMONS, SAYS THE STORIES ARE UNFOUNDED

NO FIGHTING AND NO LOSSES OTHER THAN OFFICIALLY REPORTED

So Declares First Lord in Speech in Parliament -- Stories Today Had German Fleet Almost Annihilated -- East Coast of England, However, Freed From Danger

London, Aug. 7.—Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the British admiralty, declared in the House of Commons today that there had not been any fighting or losses other than had been announced officially.

"Apart from the loss of the small British cruiser Amphion and the German mine layer Koening Luise, there has been no other fighting and no other loss, as far as we are aware."

"On Wednesday a flotilla of torpedo boat destroyers, while patrolling the upper reaches of the channel, found the Koening Luise laying mines. The destroyers pursued and sank her. About fifty of her crew, which probably numbered 120 or 130 men, were humanely saved by the crews of the British destroyers."

"The Amphion continued to scout with the flotilla, and while on the return journey was blown up by a mine. The indiscriminate use of mines, not in connection with military harbors or strategic positions, and the indiscriminate scattering of contact mines about the sea, might destroy not only warships, but peaceful merchant vessels under a neutral flag and possibly carrying supplies to a neutral country."

"This use of mines is new in warfare and deserves the attentive consideration, not only of those of us who are engaged in war, but of the nations of the civilized world. The admiralty is not at all alarmed or disconnected by this incident."

"Among the reports were destruction of nineteen German battleships and capture of seventeen, and the sinking of several British including the Iron Duke."

BATTLE THREATENS THREE

The German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, obliged owing to Italian neutrality, to leave San Salvatore, Sicily, have gone out to meet the British fleet. The commanders are said to have handed their wills to the German consul before their departure.

Numerous German merchant vessels were brought into English ports today by British cruisers. The Holland-Lloy 4 steamer Tubantia, with 2,500,000 from South America for the Deutsche bank in London, was also brought in. French warships also captured several other merchant ships.

London, Aug. 7.—The admiralty announces that British coastwise shipping on the east coast is now safe because the British fleet has engaged the Germans on the high seas, and the German fleet is now being chased toward the coast of Holland.

A despatch to the Daily News from Newcastle, time 1 a. m. today, says that a wireless message received at South Shields a little before midnight states that the British fleet engaged the German high seas fleet in a heavy battle off the South Dogger bank.

After a general engagement along the battle line, which extended for many miles, and in which many ships on both sides took part, the German fleet was beaten back and moved in the direction of the coast of Holland.

It is now believed that the German fleet is completely hemmed in in the eastern side of the North Sea.

All the rest of the sea is in the control of the British fleet. Support for this contention is found in the official permission given to fishing trawlers to leave the Tyne ports, those of the Humber and other east coast fishing centers for the fishing grounds today. This had been forbidden for two days.

The surgeon in charge of the South Shields hospital received a wireless message last night, asking what accommodation he had for the wounded. He replied that he could take care of 1,000 persons.

London, Aug. 7.—Unconfirmed reports reached London newspapers today telling that a terrific battle between German and British ships had been fought in the North Sea. The admiralty refused to confirm the reports. Many points along the coast report having heard heavy firing, but whether a decisive engagement has been fought has not been learned.

A despatch to the Daily News from Whitley says that a ship owner is responsible for the statement that nineteen German ships are already sunk or captured in the battle in the North Sea, and that several British and French vessels were sunk.

Reports from various ports say that heavy firing has been heard in the North Sea for the last twenty-four hours.

ADMIRALTY CONFIRMS LOSS OF AMPHION

London, Aug. 7.—The admiralty has issued the following:—"In the course of reconnoitering after the German mine layer Koening Luise, which was sunk this morning, the cruiser Amphion struck a mine and foundered. The fore part of the British ship was shattered by the explosion, and practically all of the loss to the crew ensued from this cause. All not killed by the explosion were taken off by the boats of the destroyer before the Amphion went down."

Twenty German prisoners of war were confined in the fore part of the ship were killed. The line of mines was probably laid by the Koening Luise before she was sunk. They extend from Aldeburg Rids to latitude 52.10 north longitude 2.25 east."

FIGHT IN MEDITERRANEAN

Messina, Aug. 7.—The German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, recently reported as sunk and captured, respectively, by the French Mediterranean fleet, are outside this harbor. Formal notifications that this was a neutral port was served on the vessels today. They will not be permitted to seek refuge here from pursuing ships. A British fleet is waiting outside the harbor for the Germans. German officers and men aboard sent all their valuables and their wills to the German consulate here.

Messina, Sicily, Aug. 7.—(Via London, 11.48 a. m.)—The German cruisers Goeben and Breslau sailed out of San Salvatore at half past five this morning under full steam. Their decks were cleared for action in the expectation of meeting the vessels of the British fleet patrolling the straits.

TRAPPED BY BRITISH?

Tokio—An authentic report received here states that the German squadron has been bottled up at Tsing Tau, by the British.

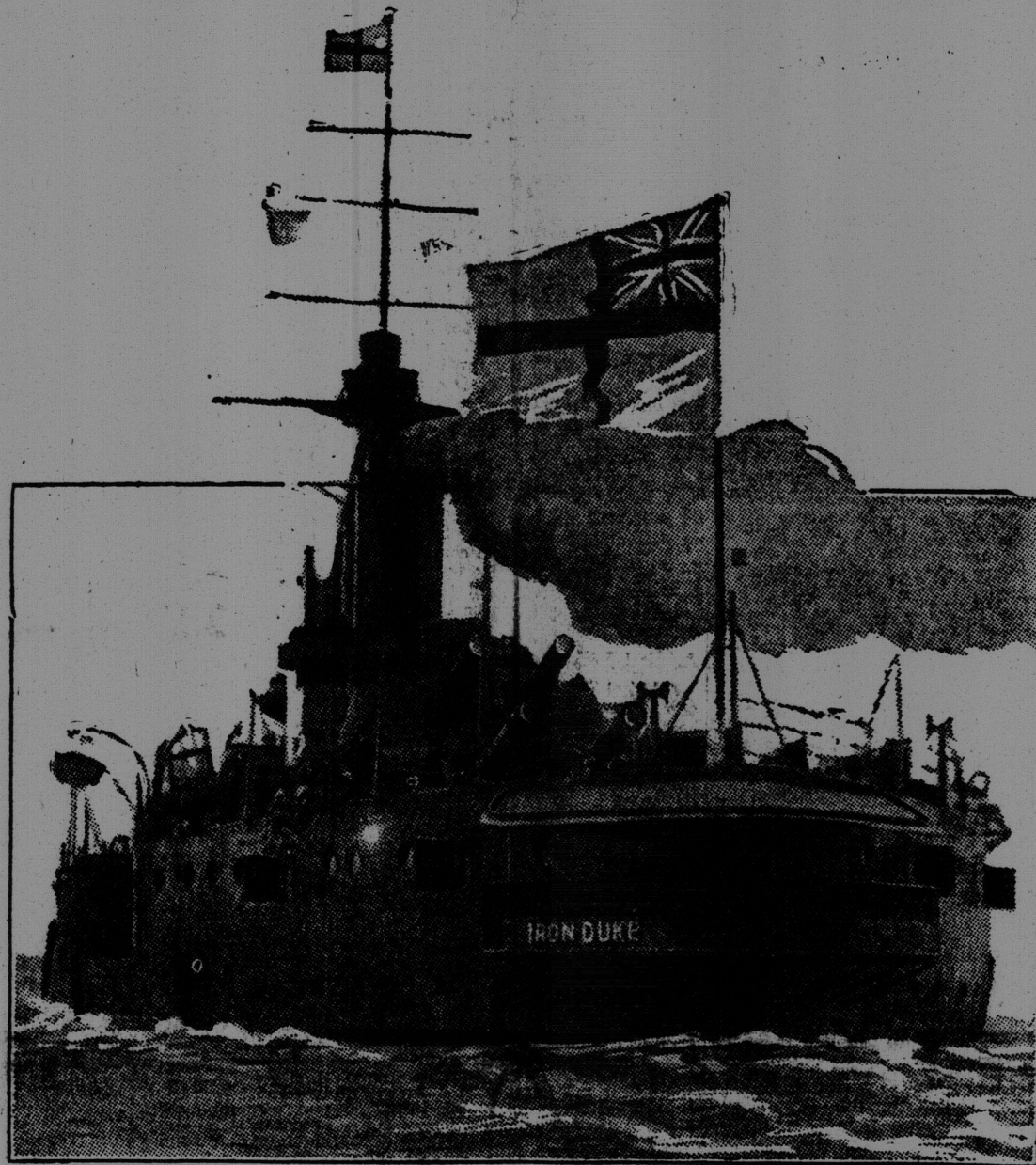
BRITISH CHASE AUSTRIAN CRUISER

Brindisi, Italy, Aug. 7.—The first naval battle in the Adriatic was today when the Austrian cruiser Taurus and a fleet of British torpedo destroyers met. The Taurus put in here to escape her pursuers. She was looking badly.

FINANCIAL SITUATION MORE LIKE NORMAL

London, Aug. 7.—The financial situation of London almost resumed its normal aspect today, with the re-opening of the banks. Interest centered around the Bank of England, where a gradually extending line of people gathered, anxious to exchange paper money for gold. There was no great rush till noon.

THE PRIDE OF BRITAIN'S NAVY



THIS IS THE GREAT BRITISH SUPER-DREADNOUGHT, THE IRON DUKE

The Local Soldiers

Mobilization orders were today received by Lieut.-Colonel J. L. McAvity, officer commanding the 62nd regiment, St. John Fusiliers, and the regiment will be at once recruited to war strength. Already the number of volunteers who have offered their services has been large, but more will be required. While the recruiting will, for the most part, be for home service, a selection will be made from amongst the members of those who will enlist for foreign action, to form part of the big Canadian contingent.

Major C. H. McLean, O.C. of the 28th Dragoons, received further advice from Colonel McLean, who is in Ottawa, regarding the local situation. The Artillery, 8th regiment, are guarding the entrance to the harbor, and a strict watch is being kept at Partridge Island, where no one is allowed to land unless he has a pass.

At Partridge Island

Lieut.-Colonel B. R. Armstrong, commanding the 3rd regiment, said this morning that he and his officers were being kept as well informed as possible from headquarters at Ottawa concerning the movements of German cruisers off the Atlantic coast. Advice thus far received said that the cruisers were fast boats of war, but were not particularly heavily armed. The guns of the local fortifications would be sufficient to cope with them within their range of six miles and a half. If it were not possible to put them out of action, careful shooting would at least disable them, or dismantle their equipment. The military authorities thought that what was here was ample protection for the port.

Colonel Armstrong made the request that any citizens having copies of magazines which they had finished, would confer a favor on the men on duty by sending them to the island. The magazines would be received at McLeod's wharf, at the foot of Duke street, in the tugboat "Alto," which is in the service of the department.

Private Wireless Outfits

There are several wireless outfits about the city conducted by private individuals, and the possibility of their intercepting messages was discussed today. It was said by those who should know that they would not interfere with any arrangements or plans; that the important war messages were received by code and that private stations were equipped only for receiving and not for sending. It was not thought to be necessary to issue orders for the outfits to be dismantled.

The Dragoons

Major C. H. McLean this morning received the following despatch from Col. H. H. McLean, of the 28th N. B. Dragoons, now in Ottawa:—"At present our regiment is to be recruited for home service duty. One squadron of cavalry from Canada to go with the Canadian first contingent. We

Doctor Ryan has wired his services to Ottawa.

No appointment of a physician to examine the men who are to be selected for the Canadian contingent from St. John has yet been made. It is likely that the officers of the No. 8 Field Ambulance will conduct the medical inspection here, as soon as the names of those anxious to enlist for European service have been taken. In most of the regiments these names will be taken tonight at the army, and from amongst them the selection will be made. The men picked will then go to Quebec where, after a short finishing course in training, they will sail for England, unless orders are later received saying that the services of the contingent will not be needed.

The registration offices of the Scottish infantry are receiving many applications from an excellent class of men, and the results are fully up to expectations. It is anticipated that very soon the complete organization of a fine body of volunteers, of whom many have had military experience.

When the construction of earthworks along the southwest corner of Partridge Island has been completed, which will likely be today, the place will have been converted into a fort of a more or less formidable nature. Major Magee and 116 men under him in the battery furnished from the 8th Regt. C. A. and they have four pieces of garrison artillery. The big 4.7 guns were taken down to the island yesterday on the tugboat Watson and are entrenched facing the entrance to the channel. The men are encamped in the immigration building not far away.

Miss Leah, head of the Victorian Order of Nurses in St. John, and a member of a British Volunteer Corps of Nurses, has notified that board of governors of her intention of going to the front if needed. Miss Daisy Gayton, of Harrison street, volunteered her services as graduate nurse last night.

REPORT SAYS LIEGE FALLEN

Maastricht, Netherlands, Aug. 7.—It is rumored here that Liege has surrendered to the Germans. Many buildings are said to have been burned by German bombs dropped from aeroplanes.

Plenty of Money

London, Aug. 7.—The Berlin correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph," has reached Stockholm, sends the following despatch:—"The scene witnessed at Sassnitz, a famous watering place on the east coast of the German island of Rugen, in the Baltic Sea, baffled all description. Some 5,000 Russian refugees turned out to the quay, where they struggled for a steamer, which was reached by only a single gangway. The vessel was obliged to sail, leaving 6,000 of them in despair believing that the last possible chance to return to their country had been lost."

"One family had a letter of credit for \$10,000, but were on the verge of starvation. Some of the refugees were half dead with hunger, thirst, and lack of sleep."

LIEGE ONLY PLACE TO FURNISH NEWS OF LAND FIGHTING

Reports From That Vicinity, Too, Are Conflicting—Quiet Along The French Frontier—Appeal to Women of France

London, Aug. 7.—Complete silence reigns as to military movements on both Germany's and France's part, and it is assumed that both armies are concentrating for a decisive battle. No hint as to where they will come into contact has been given.

Liege, Belgium, was again attacked by German troops last night, but was still holding out. The report of a German reverse was denied in a despatch from Berlin.

FRENCH TAKE TWO GERMAN TOWNS

Paris, Aug. 7.—(via London, 3.40 a. m.)—The minister of war announces the French troops have occupied Vie and Moyenvic, small German towns in Alsace-Lorraine, just over the border and about seventeen miles east of Nancy.

SLAUGHTER AT LIEGE

Liege, Aug. 6.—(midnight via London, 10 p. m.)—The Tenth German Army corps reinforced by cavalry, attacked Liege last night. They crossed a zone which had been mined and, the mines being exploded by the British, a whole battalion of the Germans was killed, while 1,200 wounded were picked up.

Several German howitzers have been placed in position near Havre and large German forces are lying in wait on the other side of the frontier. Germans pretending to be English, made their way to the governor's office this morning. They were killed.

All reports of the fighting at Liege agree that the German infantry advanced in masses, holding to absolutely close order. This resulted in heavy casualties on both sides.

Brussels, Aug. 7.—Fierce fighting at Liege continues, the Germans hurling enormous forces against the fortifications. An all night artillery bombardment of the town Belgian officers recognized them as German dead and wounded, but accurate estimates of the German losses are as yet impossible. After retreating to the bank of the Meuse the Germans renewed their assault at daybreak.

The German artillery, now has the range of Liege, with the result that many fires have started. The palace of justice and the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul are among the structures already badly damaged.

DUTCH PREPARE TO FIGHT GERMAN.

The Hague, Aug. 7.—The Dutch army is mobilizing rapidly for war with Germany. Queen Wilhelmina left here early today by auto to inspect the troops concentrated near Rotterdam.

Some Details From Liege

London, Aug. 7.—The correspondent of the "Daily News" at Brussels sends the following despatch:—"All the forts surrounding Liege are intact. A Belgian airman thus describes the German attack on Liege:—"After a terrible cannonade the German infantry approached en masse and reached the glacis of the forts, where the heavy defensive guns were unable to reach them. General Lemann sent artillery to a point where the invading infantry could be shelled and the Germans were swept from their feet. This occurred several times during the day and night."

A patrol of Uhlans performed a remarkable exploit by riding into the town. Belgian officers recognized them as Germans and a desperate fight ensued. Several on each side were killed.

"Red Cross ambulances arriving at Brussels, report that the ground before the forts is covered with dead and wounded Germans. The police immediately cleared the street."

Early today the Belgians entrenched at Liege slaughtered another large force of Germans. The defenders made a show of evacuating the outer fortification.

The Germans accepted the retirement as genuine and a large force pressed forward. Immediately they entered the circle of the fortifications however, the Belgians poured a deadly artillery fire on the invaders. Caught in a trap the Germans fought fiercely, but almost the entire force were annihilated. The Belgians captured twenty-seven field pieces in the rout of the Germans.

The invading force lost the temporary advantage of position they had gained in two days' fighting.

Quiet on French Border

Paris, Aug. 7.—(Via London 7.15 a. m.)—An official statement issued by the minister of war at midnight says that quiet reigns along almost the whole of the frontier. Mobilization and concentration of the French forces are proceeding satisfactorily. The Belgians have captured twenty guns from the Germans.

General's Son Killed

Amsterdam, Aug. 6.—(Via London)—The nineteen-year-old son of the German General, Count Von Arnim, was wounded before Liege, and died tonight.

Appeal to Women

Paris, Aug. 6.—Premier Viviani tonight addressed an appeal to the "women of France," asking them to complete the work of gathering the crops left unfinished by the men, who have been called to arms.

DESTRUCTION BY AIRMEN.

Brussels, Aug. 7.—Flying high over Liege today, a German aeroplane dropped three bombs killing more than Duke.



Commander in Chief of Britain's Home Fleet. He flies his flag from the Iron Duke.