

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "The MAIL and ADVOCATE"

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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FIERCE BATTLES RAGED ALL THRU XMAS SEASON

And Great Numbers of Wounded Have Been Sent to the Rear—Successful Operations of the Belgians—Conflicting Reports From the Eastern Field—British Pride in Exploits of Airmen

London, Dec. 28.—The battle lines east and west have undergone only infinitesimal changes during the past twenty-four hours. French and German reports agree that the Germans captured a section of trenches near Hollebeke, south of Ypres. The French and German reports agree that the Germans captured a section of trenches near Hollebeke, south of Ypres. The French assert that the Germans gave up trenches on the first line to the extent of about 800 or 900 yards in Lens region, further east, while unsuccessful demonstrations have been made from both sides at various points along the extended lines.

No Christmas Lull. Reports say that the numbers of wounded both armies are sending back from the battle lines in Belgium appear to show that the fighting during Christmas in that country was the fiercest during the past month.

Correspondents in the rear say the Belgians, as a result of five days' sapping, captured nearly three thousand Germans, with only small losses to themselves.

According to Russian reports, the German attempts to capture Warsaw have failed, while a Berlin official statement says there is general confidence in the German-Austro-Hungarian forces, who are making progress along the great front.

English newspapers are enthusiastic over the raid by their cruisers and seaplanes on Cuxhaven. They decline to accept without reservation the German statement that the ships in Cuxhaven and the gas works were

Circle London With Up-to-date Trench Works

British Capital Being Fortified Against Possible German Invasion

New York, Dec. 28.—Trenches are being dug about London, and extraordinary precautions are being taken throughout the English east coast region in anticipation of a further German raid or invasion. This information reached the United Press here from a reliable private source in England. The trench digging around London began two months ago. It was announced at the time that it was mere practice work for reservists. This pretence has now been abandoned. Any traveller by road out of London, especially to the north and north-east, has ample opportunity to observe lines of trenches that would do credit to seasoned sappers in Flanders. These extend in an almost unbroken line from Hendon on the north-west through Potter's Bay, across the Epping forest, on the north-east, and thence southwards as far as the Thames.

It is also known in London that Lord Kitchener recently made a personal tour of inspection of the points on the east coast where it is considered most likely the Germans may attempt the landing.

Altogether, there are now mobilized along the coast from Dover to Leth approximately half a million men. A large part of these are territorials, but, important points are a number of regiments of seasoned regulars.

All the east coast harbors, inlets and waterways have been mined. A day and night patrol of seaplanes, steam yachts, motor boats and armed steam trawlers is maintained. The navy has provided some 800 trawlers, manned by navy gunners. Altogether there are about 1,600 small vessels armed and unarmed, now on this patrol service between Dover and Leth.

'Callidora' Sails

The barq. Callidora sailed for Hr. Grace yesterday morning. She put in here last week while bound from North Sydney with a cargo of coal.

Londoners Get Official Warning

Told of Danger From Own Guns Shooting at Enemy Airships.

London, Dec. 28.—Naval and military authorities call the attention of persons using the streets to the danger from fragments of shells and bullets from guns used against hostile air craft attempting to raid London. The civil population are warned to keep under cover, preferably in the basements upon hearing the sound of firing by guns or explosives.

Mongolian At Glasgow

The Allan liner Mongolian arrived at Glasgow at 8 a.m. Saturday. Messrs. Shea & Co. having received word to that effect this morning.

Intense Hatred Of Great Britain Characterised German Christmas

London, Dec. 26.—Neutrals recently arrived from Germany, declare that the Germans are spending a Christmas of hate, a popular motto being "Ill-will to the English everywhere." A well known German poet's "Hymn of Hate," directed at England, is being sung nightly by female artists at all the theatres, where it is rapturously applauded. It is also sung in family circles, around the Christmas tree and at festive boards.

German Positions On The Yser Penetrated By The Allied Troops Forward Movement During Xmas

London, Dec. 29.—The Morning Post's Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs: There was no cessation during Christmas tide of the operations of the Allies in the southwestern part of Belgium. On the contrary, the French and English troops co-operated in a forward movement from Lombaertzyde to the South of Dixmude and detachments of Belgian troops

Russian Forces Again Abandon Siege Of Cracow

Action Made Necessary to Prevent the Austrians From Cutting the Russian Forces in Two.

Petrograd, Dec. 28.—The investment by the Russians of the Austrian fortress of Cracow has again been raised. Following the discovery of an attempt by the Austrians to divide the Russian forces in Galicia, our troops returned eastward fifty miles. The Russian forces according to advices received today from Galicia have succeeded in crossing the Biala River and in taking possession of a twenty mile strip of territory, south of Taczew, separating two Austrian armies. The forces of General Boehm Ernot, the Austrian commander, are claimed by the Russians to be retreating and the Western Austrian army is said to be badly crippled.

MORE RAIDS IN PROSPECT

Attempt May Next Be Made on Heligoland, Wilhelmshaven and Even On Kiel Canal.

New York, Dec. 29.—A cable to The Herald from London says the British raid on Cuxhaven has given rise to further demands on the fleet. Writers in newspapers are asking why, if Cuxhaven can be successfully attacked, cannot a similar raid be made on Heligoland itself, on Wilhelmshaven or even on the Kiel Canal.

Canada Can Place German Invaders, Higher Than Haman

Montreal, Dec. 28.—The "German scare" reached Vice-President Geo. M. Bosworth, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in the form of a telegraphic inquiry from the New York Times this afternoon as follows: "We are receiving intimations from widely scattered points in California that there is a movement of Germans in civilian clothing northward, the object being to raid Vancouver and the C.P.R. communications and keep Canadians at home. Have you anything to say?"

Bosworth replied as follows: "We have fine scenery all along the line of the Canadian Pacific and can reserve a peak ten thousand feet high for the solitary meditations of any German raiders who come across the international boundary."

S.S. Adventure sails for the Mediterranean ports with fish on Thursday.

S.S. Nascope left Tiera Vieja on Xmas Day for the port with salt.

S.S. Baleine is loading herring at Halls Bay for Gloucester.

150 FRENCH TROOPS DEFY WHOLE ARMY

Got Cut Off in General Retreat in August and Tho Surrounded Have Escaped Capture Ever Since

Paris, Dec. 26.—In all its wealth of heroic actions the present war contains no more surprising episode than that which has just been brought to light. The facts are as follows: For four months ever since August 23rd, an organised company of one hundred and fifty French soldiers have been living in the Belgian Provinces of Luxemburg and Namur and although surrounded entirely by the German forces, occupying Belgium, they have constantly escaped capture.

For almost four months they have conducted a guerilla warfare against their foes, inflicting heavier losses and more damage than could be done by an entire regiment, in the open, and every attempt of the Germans to dislodge them from the mountain forests where they have found refuge, has failed.

The story is vouched for by impeccable authority who has personally seen and interviewed several of the men. These one hundred and fifty are that is left of the French troops who vainly attempted in a two day battle to resist the German advance between the rivers Liesz and Semois on Aug. 22nd and 23rd.

The order for the general retreat sent out by the Allied forces on Sunday, Aug. 23rd reached them too late. Their only way of retreat through Mezieres, having been cut off and realizing that they were surrounded, they decided to seek refuge in the thick forests, with which this region is covered, and to await the return of French forces which in their minds then was a matter of days. The hiding place of the soldiers is said to be between the town of Saint Hubert and Givet, in the Belgian section of the Ardennes mountains. Their presence there is known to all the inhabitants of the surrounding villages and to the Germans as well.

A Big Battle As Described By A "Tommy"

Just a Matter of a Terrible Noise and Then an Awakening in the Hospital.

Paris, Dec. 26.—Everybody knows how difficult it is to grasp an impression and more so to give a terse and vivid description, of a battle. It would be hard to beat the following picture, given to me by a wounded British soldier.

I asked him what he could tell me about the battle in which he was hit, and this was his answer: "First you 'ear an 'ell of a noise, and then the nurse says: 'Try and drink a little of this 'ere.'"

FISH CARGOES ARE CAUGHT IN NORTHERN SLOB

And Unless Immediate Effort is Made to Release the Vessels They Will be Frozen in Until the Spring

The Sagona is not gone to Norris' Arm, but to free foreign going fish vessels now frozen in the slob between Fogo and Change Islands. Three loaded vessels are frozen in at Fogo proper and unless released by some steamer those vessels will have to remain there until the spring when the value of their cargoes will be much less than it is to-day.

Another fish laden vessel, bound to Lunenburg from Twillingate, is nipped off the southern end of Change Islands, while a schooner loaded with fish from Twillingate and intended to finish the loading of a foreign vessel at Fogo, is nipped at the Main Tickle, Change Islands.

The Fogota and Sagona are endeavoring to release those vessels with their valuable and perishable cargoes but unless an off wind pushes off the outside slob, which now blocks Notre Dame Bay, very little hope of their being released is entertained.

A child, 6 years old, was conveyed to the Fever Hospital suffering from diphtheria this morning from 39 George Street.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Fair and moderately cold today. Wednesday, increasing easterly winds and likely to become stormy.

U.S.A. Objects To Interference With Shipping

Claims That British Fleet Has "Unwarrantably" Interfered with "Legitimate" Trade.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The United States Government to-day despatched a long Note to Great Britain insisting upon an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British Fleet. It gave warning that much feeling had been aroused in this country and that public criticism was general over the unwarranted interference with the legitimate foreign trade of the United States.

Dorothy Duff is loading fish at Fogo for Europe.

BIG DEFEAT TO AUSTRIANS

Russians Report a Victory on the Upper Vistula, With the Capture of 10,000 Prisoners.

(British Official Bulletin.)

London, Dec. 28.—British seaplanes escorted by light cruisers, destroyers, and submarines, attacked at Cuxhaven on Dec. 25th, discharging bombs on points of military significance. A hostile attack on our ships by enemy aircraft, submarines and two seaplanes was outmanoeuvred. The Zeppelins were easily put to flight by our fire.

On Dec. 24th a British biplane successfully dropped bombs on a German airship shed in Brussels.

The French Government reports attacks and counter-attacks, and bombardment of the German aviation. The Russian Government reports the Austrians defeated on the Upper Vistula and in the direction of Dukla, with enormous losses, including 10,000 prisoners.—HARCOURT.

Christmas Afternoon Gathering At South-End-On-Sea, England, Witnesses Thrilling Battle In Air

Southend-on-Sea, England, Dec. 25, via London, Dec. 26.—The spectacle of a fight in the air, witnessed on Christmas afternoon by thousands of spectators, was one which ten years ago would have been considered one of the wildest imaginings of fiction.

Three aeroplanes, one a German and two British, were flying overhead at seventy miles an hour, almost a mile high in the air. The German Taube was moving more swiftly than the others, which swung above it. The British were spitting fire, while the German was unable to reply on account of the strategic position of her pursuers.

British Chased Them. When the German first came in sight the anti-aircraft guns fired several shots, but after the British aeroplanes took chase, it was impossible to fire without danger of hitting them.

The spectacle lasted only five minutes. The German dodged and twisted in an effort to escape, but the British were on both sides pouring in rapid volleys. The speed at which the

aeroplanes were travelling made the aim uncertain, but one of the British machines swooped down close to the German and pumped in several shots at close range.

Now, the German returned the fire, but so far as the people on the waterfront could see no damage was done on either side.

Sheerness, Dec. 25, via London, Dec. 26.—A German aeroplane was sighted off South End to-day. The weather was misty, and the machine was flying at a great height at high speed. Several rounds were fired from anti-aircraft guns, apparently without hitting the German, but a naval aeroplane soon chased the intruder, who disappeared. Many thousands of people flocked to the sea front to witness the affair.

Later three British aeroplanes tried to outflank the German machine, but the latter was flying too fast, and disappeared to the eastward. The weather was misty at sea, but comparatively clear on land. Nothing has been heard regarding the dropping of any bombs.

CANADIAN SENTRY SHOOT 2 AMERICANS; ONE KILLED

The Two Men Had Violated Canadian Game Laws and Were Trying to Escape Arrest When Shot Fired to Halt Them Hit One Man and Killed Him and Wounded His Companion

Buffalo, Dec. 28.—Canadian soldiers patrolling the frontier near Fort Erie, to-day fired upon boats containing duck-hunters.

Walter Smith of Buffalo was killed and Charles Dorsch fatally wounded.

Killing Unintentional. Buffalo, Dec. 29.—The killing of Walter Smith and the wounding of Charles Dorsch, two American hunters, by Canadian soldiers on the Niagara River, near Fort Erie yesterday, was unintentional, according to information gathered by the military authorities.

The soldiers were aiding a provincial officer to arrest the men for violation of the game laws. Several volleys were fired over their heads to force them to come ashore with their row boats. The final shot, said to

have been fired for the same purpose, struck Smith between the eyes and passing through his head, wounded Dorsch.

Their Own Fault. While deep regret over the accident was expressed by the Fort Erie officials, it was pointed out that the men were not only technically under arrest by the game officer and were attempting to escape, but that they had violated the military order which forbade unauthorized persons to approach the international boundary line while armed.

This order, it was said, was accompanied by a verbal order to the soldiers on patrol to shoot to kill, if any persons so armed refused to surrender promptly.

London, Dec. 29.—A correspondent of the Times telegraphing from a point on the East Coast says much damage was done by the British airmen at Cuxhaven and the Parseval sheds. The airships destroyed a number of Zeppelin sheds and the contents were badly knocked about.

While our men were busy the Germans discovered the presence of the escorting cruisers and destroyers. Two Zeppelins, with some seaplanes and submarines, set off to attack them.

German Airship Was Shot Down

Zeppelin Reported to Have Been Destroyed Near Nieuport.

London, Dec. 28.—An unofficial despatch received by the Exchange Telegraph Company from Rosenthal, says: It is rumored here that a Zeppelin was sighted near Nieuport on Sunday morning, and was shot at by the Allies and all its occupants killed in the debris of the airship as it descended.

VIOLENT STORM CAUSES A LULL IN THE FIGHTING

(French Official Bulletin.) Paris, Dec. 28.—During the day a violent storm interfered with operations along the greater part of the front.

It is reported that we have made some progress in the Argonne region.

Local Factory Gets The Order To Make Volunteers' Boots

The Newfoundland Boot and Shoe Factory has received the order to make the boots for the second contingent.

The employees of the factory who have been idle since Christmas Eve started at this morning.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Italy Checks Supply of Food To Belligerents

Uncerthly Widespread Plot Contemplating Shipment of Contraband Germany and Austria.

London, Dec. 29.—A Rome despatch to The Times says that after stopping on the frontier various consignments of contraband goods and flour to Austria, Germany, and France, the Italian Government has succeeded in checking a vast plot for forwarding huge consignments of cereals to Germany.

Dr. Commendatore Fiore, a well-known physician in Rome, and Signor Castrig Nano, formerly Customs official, who were involved in the plot have been arrested.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE