

ADVANCE INTO STRAITS COST THE ALLIES THREE WARSHIPS

Britain Loses Two Battleships And France One, in Attack On Forts in Narrows of Dardanelles

British Battleships Irresistible and Ocean and French Ship Bouvet Sunk By Floating Mines in the Dardanelles—Casualties on British Ships Were Light, But Death Toll on the Bouvet Probably Heavy—The Queen Elizabeth Led Allied Fleet Into Straits—Advanced as Far as Cavofonia Where Powder Arsenal Was Blown Up—Ships Cause Heavy Damage to Forts in Advance Through the Straits, and Town of Dardanelles is in Flames—Losses Small in Proportion to Scale of the Operations.

London, March 19.—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines, while engaged with the remainder of the Allied fleet in attacking the forts in the narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

The crews of the two British ships were virtually all saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine and most of her crew were lost. The Bouvet sank within three minutes of the time that she hit the mine.

The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines, but the British Admiralty asserts that the Turks and the Germans set floating containers of explosives adrift and these were carried down by the current into the water where the Allied ships had gathered inside the entrance of the Straits.

All the ships that were sunk were old ones, the Bouvet having been completed nearly twenty years ago and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1896. They were useful, however, for the work in which they were engaged in the Dardanelles. The sunken British ships are being replaced by the battleships Queen and Implacable, vessels of a similar type. They are said to have started some time ago for near eastern waters in anticipation of just such losses as have now occurred. The other ships engaged in the fighting, the British battle cruiser Inflexible and the French battleship Gaulois were hit by shells and damaged. The British casualties, according to the British official report, "were not heavy, considering the scale of the operations."

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is stated that the operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked were those on either side of the Kepez Bay and on Kepez Point, outside the narrows, and those on Kilit Bahr and Chanak in the narrows.

The Kepez forts replied strongly when the battleships advanced firing up the Dardanelles and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that these forts finally were silenced and a bombardment of those in the narrows was under way when the three battleships struck the mines. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood that the engagement was resumed today.

THE ADMIRALTY'S ACCOUNT.

London, March 19.—The Admiralty tonight gave out the following: "An account of the operations at the Dardanelles on the 18th of March: Mine sweeping having been in progress during the last ten days inside the Straits, a general attack was delivered by the British and French fleets yesterday (Thursday) morning upon the fortresses at the narrows. At 10.45 a. m. the Queen Elizabeth, Inflexible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson bombarded Forts J, L, T, U and V, while the Triumph and Prince George fired at batteries F, E and H. A heavy fire was opened on the ships from howitzers and field guns.

"At 12.22 o'clock the French squadron, consisting of the Suffren, Gaulois, Cha-riemagne and Bouvet advanced up the Dardanelles and engaged the forts at closer range. Forts J, U, F and E replied strongly. Their fire was silenced by the ten battleships inside the Straits, all the ships being hit several times during the part of the action.

"By 1.25 p. m. all the forts had ceased firing. The Vengeance, Irresistible, Albion, Ocean, Swiftsure and Majestic then advanced to relieve the six old battleships inside the Straits. As the French squadron, which had engaged the forts in a most brilliant fashion, was passing out the Bouvet was blown up by a drifting mine. She sank in 35 fathoms north of Erankoul village in less than three minutes.

"At 2.34 p. m. the relief battleships renewed the attack on the forts which again opened fire. The attack on the forts was maintained while the operations of the mine sweepers continued.

"At 4.09 p. m. the Irresistible quitted the line, listing heavily, and at 5.50 o'clock sank, having probably struck a drifting mine.

"At 6.05 o'clock the Ocean, also having struck a mine, sank. Both vessels sank in deep water, practically the whole of the crews having been removed safely under a hot fire.

"The Gaulois was damaged by gun-fire. The Inflexible had her forward control position hit by a heavy shell, and required repairs.

"The bombardment of the forts and the mine-sweeping operations terminated when darkness fell. The damage to the forts, effected by the prolonged direct fire of the very powerful forces employed, cannot yet be estimated, and a further report will follow. The losses of the ships was caused by mines drifting with the current, which were encountered in areas hitherto swept clear, and this danger will require special treatment.

The British battleship Irresistible was commanded by Captain the Hon. Stanhope Hawke, and in times of peace had a complement of 780 men. She was the largest of the three Allied battleships sunk, being 15,000 tons displacement, and 430 feet long. The chief armament of the warship consisted of four 12-inch and twelve 6-inch guns. She also carried sixteen 12-pounders, six 3-pounders, two maxims, four submerged torpedo tubes, and was protected by Krupp armor. The speed of the warship was eighteen knots. She was built in 1895 at a cost of \$5,000,000.

The Ocean was commanded by Capt. Arthur Hayes-Sadler, and had a crew of 750 men. She was 418 feet long and of 12,950 tons displacement. Her armament was composed of four 12-inch and twelve 6-inch guns, ten 12-pounders, six 3-pounders, two maxims, four submerged torpedo tubes, and her armament was of Harvey-Nickel make. She was of eighteen knots speed, and was built in 1898.

Town of Dardanelles in Flames.

Paris, March 19.—"The Allied fleet entered the Straits of the Dardanelles at eight o'clock this morning," says an Athens despatch to the Havas Agency, based on information received from Tenedos.

"The British battleship Queen Elizabeth was leading. She was followed in order by the Ocean, Inflexible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson, and then by the French warships Gaulois, Suffren, Bouvet, and Charlemagne. The weather conditions were excellent. The reports of cannon could be heard from the Gulf of Saros bombarding directly Kilit Bahr.

"The warships stationed at the entrance of the Straits bombarded Dardanos and Kilit Bahr. The line extended from Kum Kale on the Asiatic side at the entrance to the Straits to Kalantina. The line advanced as far as Cavofonia, where a powder arsenal situated below the town of Dardanelles, was blown up.

"Fortis Tobimoznik, Kilit Bahr and Yildiz Tabia replied with a heavy fire, shells falling on all sides of the warships and some even on the ships themselves.

"One ship entered close to Dardanelles, but was forced to retreat before a violent cannonading.

"A shell exploded on the British battle cruiser Inflexible, wounding several men, who were immediately transported to the hospital ship.

"The town of Dardanelles is in flames.

"At six o'clock in the evening the action had concluded, but was partially resumed during the night. A majority of the forts suffered severely."

KEEP OUT FOREIGN LABOR FROM BR. COLUMBIA UNTIL SEPT. 30 NEXT

Ottawa, Mar. 19.—In view of the conditions of unemployment and labor congestion in British Columbia an order-in-council has been passed prohibiting, until September 30th next, the landing at any British Columbia port of entry of immigrants belonging to the laboring classes, whether skilled or unskilled.

MOUNTED RIFLES ON MARCH TO DEPOT YESTERDAY TO ENTRAIN FOR AMHERST



RUSSIANS TAKE GERMAN PORT ON THE BALTIC

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT ANNOUNCES OCCUPATION OF MEMEL BY CZAR'S FORCES—ENEMY BEGINS OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT IN CENTRAL POLAND—NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ITALY'S PRICE TOO HIGH FOR AUSTRIA, IS REPORT.

London, Mar. 19.—Beyond the operations in the Dardanelles the most important news of the day concerns the reported occupation by the Russians of Memel, a German port on the Baltic, as announced in the German official communication.

It is a town of considerable importance in Northeastern Prussia, and the presence there of Russian forces is taken by military observers here to indicate that the Russian generals have decided to attempt a big sweep down through East Prussia, in an endeavor to compel the Germans to fall back from Northern Poland.

Again North Poland has been transferred into an immense bog by the thaw which has set in, just as Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has started his offensive against Przasnysz. It is declared that it is impossible, except at widely separated high places, to move, let alone fight.

The Germans, however, have started an offensive in Central Poland, where they have commenced an attack on the Russians in the region of the Pilica river. There is also heavy fighting in Galicia, the Carpathians and Bukovina, despite the heavy snow.

On the western front no operations of great importance have taken place, although the French continue their efforts to work their way forward in the Champagne and Argonne regions, and the Belgians still are active in the little bit of their territory remaining in their hands.

The political situation as regards Austria and Italy remains obscure, but there are persistent reports in circulation in London that the negotiations for the cession of Austrian territory to Italy have broken down, Italy's demands having been considered excessive.

GERMAN OFFICIAL IN HIGH POSITION IN U. S. WAS ARCH CONSPIRATOR

Representative of German Government at Washington Man Who Manoeuvred Passport Plot—Stegler Given Sixty Days, His Accomplices Ten Months Each.

New York, March 19.—A representative of the German government in this country, "who on account of his position is immune from arrest," was described in the federal court here today as the "arch conspirator" in the plot to obtain a false American passport for Richard P. Stegler, a German naval reservist.

The accusation was made by Charles H. Griffiths, Stegler's counsel, in asking for a light sentence for his client, after he had pleaded guilty. Stegler got sixty days in jail. His two fel-

low conspirators, Richard Madden and Gustave Cook, who were yesterday convicted by a jury, largely on Stegler's testimony, were sentenced to ten months each.

Judge Cushman in sentencing Stegler said: "Since at this time there is a large foreign-born population which still apparently shows allegiance to foreign government, something should be done to discourage acts of this kind. It would not do to send him out from here free, and let him pose as a hero."

ENEMY'S AGENTS IN INDIA MUST BE THWARTED

New Legislation Provides For Speedier Trials of Would-be Traitors.

FEW AGITATORS HAVE BEEN BUSY LATELY.

India as Whole, However, Loyal to Empire and Native Princes Favor Strict Measures for Offenders.

London, March 19 (Through Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—A special despatch from Delhi, India, says:

"At today's meeting of council the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, announced the introduction of a bill providing for special measures to secure the public safety, the defence of India, and for speedier trials for certain offences. His Excellency said that the bill should not be considered as a slur upon the people of India; but the government had information that such a measure was absolutely necessary to meet possible emergencies.

"Nobody," said His Excellency, "was more jealous for the honor of India than he was. But he was not disposed to allow the honor and fair name of India to be tarnished by the criminal acts of a few unbalanced minds.

"Sir Reginald Craock, in introducing the bill, subsequently congratulated the country upon the fact that the need of such a measure had hitherto not been felt. But in this instance it was required to give the military authorities special power to deal with emergencies, and to nip in the bud manifestations of disloyalty which were beginning to be shown. With full recognition of the general loyalty of the country, Sir Reginald said he was obliged to allude to the campaign engineered from the Pacific coast of America. Some deluded men, with poisoned minds, had returned from these parts to India during the last few months and had committed acts of violence in Bengal. There had been a brief recrudescence there of seditious activity, and the two movements were not unconnected.

"In the Western Punjab there had also been looting and incendiarism, as well as a racial conflict between Hindus and Mohammedans. This last danger, he said, could only be really serious, if it were not checked in its incipency. The bill was in two parts—the first modelled generally upon the British defence of the Realm Act. The second provided for the creation of a special tribunal of three commissioners to hear such cases as were made over to them by order of the local government concerning offenses punishable by death, transportation, or imprisonment for seven years.

"Many native Indian members of the council spoke in hearty appreciation of the main principles of the bill, which passed unanimously. Sir Reginald Craock thanking these honorable members for their loyal support.

"At the opening of the council His Excellency Baron Hardinge read a message from Sir John French, a splendid tribute to the gallantry displayed by the Indian troops in the action at Neuve Chapelle, and His Excellency's reply to General Willcock's reply, expressing the admiration of the Indian Empire at the fine showing of the Indian troops on that occasion."

"Representative lawyers from widely separated sections of Canada are in attendance, amongst them being the following from the Maritime Provinces: Messrs. Humphrey Mellich, K. C., Halifax; M. G. Teed, K. C., St. John, N. B., and K. J. Martin, K. C., Charlottetown, P. E. I., vice-pres-

BRITISH ADMIRALTY BELIEVES KARLSRUHE SUNK IN NOVEMBER

London, Mar. 20.—The Secretary of the British Admiralty announces that there is every reason to believe that the German cruiser Karlsruhe was sunk in the neighborhood of the West Indies at the beginning of November, and that those of her crew who were rescued, reached Germany early in December on the steamer Rio Grande, which had been acting in concert with the Karlsruhe.

CANADIAN BAR ASS'N MEETS IN MONTREAL

St. John Lawyers Present—Hon. Arthur Meighen and Hon. James Beck, of New York Among Speakers Yesterday.

Montreal, March 19.—Addresses from eminent representatives of the bar of the Dominion at the day session including one from Hon. Arthur Meighen, Solicitor-General, and an address tonight from Hon. James Beck, New York, former assistant Attorney-General of the United States, marked the opening day of the first annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Montreal.

Representative lawyers from widely separated sections of Canada are in attendance, amongst them being the following from the Maritime Provinces: Messrs. Humphrey Mellich, K. C., Halifax; M. G. Teed, K. C., St. John, N. B., and K. J. Martin, K. C., Charlottetown, P. E. I., vice-pres-