

# GERMANY LOSES CRUISER AND TORPEDO BOAT IN BALTIC; FRENCH BOMBARD ENEMY NEAR ST. MICHIEL

## GERMANS RUSHING MORE MEN TO WESTERN FRONT

### Huns Attack British with Gas and Artillery, but Prevented from Leaving Trenches — Reported Germans Making Ready for Attack on Suez Canal—Quiet Along Various Fronts.

Paris, Dec. 18.—Masses of German troops toward the western front recently, according to news that has reached here since the reopening of the frontier at Constance and the Linau frontier.

The frontier is still closed at Bielefeld.

### German Positions Successfully Bombarded.

Paris, Dec. 18.—French artillery last night bombarded, with excellent results the German positions southeast of St. Michel, in the Apremont salient, according to the official statement given out today by the French war office. The statement adds that about 40 bombs were dropped on buildings at the station of Sablon, just south of the German fortress of Metz.

### A Failure, Berlin Says.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—The German press last night, after another attack against the German fortress of Metz, stated that the only result was damage to property, and the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters in the Balkan theatre, the statement adds, 700 Serbs and Montenegrins were taken prisoner.

### British Report.

London, Dec. 18.—The following official statement was issued tonight: "Early this morning the enemy discharged gas against our lines to the northeast of Ypres, accompanied by a heavy bombardment. Except at a few places where they were driven back before reaching our lines, they were prevented from leaving their trenches by our fire. Our protective measures against gas proved effective and our line is everywhere intact.

"Except for artillery activity on both sides, there has been no further development during the day. The hostile artillery was unusually active east of Ypres and also against our trenches west and south of Messines. The enemy blew up two mines in front of our trenches east of Arras early this morning. Hostile infantry attempted to occupy the crests but were driven off by our rifle fire.

"On the rest of the front there is nothing important to report. An enemy aeroplane was brought down by our fire today over the front. The hostilities in all the offensive campaigns, except the Italian pressure on the Austrians, which has followed the extension of the Serbian army from its own country, European interest is focused upon the probabilities of some new but as yet undeveloped upheaval.

It appears to be taken for granted on all sides that the policy of the Central Powers will be to attempt to gain a decision somewhere, while their opponents will prefer to devote the winter to preparations for warfare in the spring.

### Brig-Gen. Holman Wounded

London, Dec. 18.—Brigadier General Herbert Campbell Holman, of the Sixteenth Cavalry, India army, is reported to have been wounded on the battlefield in France.

### On Italian Front

Rome, Dec. 18, via London, Dec. 20.—The following official communication was issued today:

"Despite the fact that stormy weather on the mountains and plain and fog on the plains is hampering our operations, the activity of our troops has not been relaxed. On the northern slopes of Monte San Michele our infantry detachments surrounded a hostile position which made a salient in our lines, and captured it in a surprise attack. We took 110 prisoners, including two officers."

### Russian Report.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 18.—The official communication issued from general headquarters today reads:

"Western (Russian) front: North of Lake Miedel, an enemy column, which imprudently got within range of

## GERMANY BARGAINING WITH GREECE TO PERMIT BULGARS TO CROSS BORDER

### Unable to Attack Allies at Saloniki Single-handed—Greek Officials Arrange for Transportation to Supply Anglo-French Troops.

Paris, Dec. 18.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Saloniki states that a representative of the minister of railways has taken the necessary measures and can assure transportation facilities to supply the Allied arm troops at the front, in conformity with an agreement between the Greek general staff and the generals commanding the Allied forces. Arrangements also are being made to increase the telegraph communications.

### Germans Not Strong Enough.

London, Dec. 18.—A despatch to Reuters from Saloniki states that the small German corps in Greece is unprepared for an offensive, if indeed they contemplate such a move.

According to local newspapers, the despatch states, the Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians and Turkish consuls at Saloniki are preparing to leave for Constantinople.

### Still Bargaining with Greece.

Paris, Dec. 18.—Telegraphing from Athens, under date of December 18, the Havas correspondent says:

"Premier Koundouros declared to the representative of an Athens newspaper today (Saturday) the report that the German minister had informed him the Central Powers intended to violate Greek territory was unfounded."

"The faction for four days of the Greek and Bulgarian troops on the Greek frontier, however," the correspondent adds, "is attributed as much to diplomatic, as to military reasons, and it is thought that the Germans are not sufficiently strong to attack the Allies alone, and are trying to overcome the objections to Bulgarian action on Greek soil."

"In official circles it is stated that no official negotiations have begun. It is believed, however, the government has opened diplomatic conversations on this subject with the German minister setting forth the complications which are likely to result from the entry of Bulgarians into Greece, which would offend the pride of the Greek population and provoke the army."

### Another despatch from the Havas correspondent at Athens says:

"Government and diplomatic circles give the impression that the Central Powers will turn their attention to the Serbs, and Italians in Albania, unless the Entente Allies are reinforced at Saloniki and so change the military equilibrium in the Balkans."

"News from Saloniki is to the effect that the situation at the front is unchanged. All reports of the Entente Allies report the concentration of Bulgarian troops in proximity to the Greek frontier, and the arrival of reinforcements at Doiran."

"The German and Austrian consuls have left Saloniki for Monastir, with their staffs and the contents of the archives. Before leaving, the Austrian and German consuls warned the subjects of their countries to prepare to leave the Greek port within fifteen days."

"Bulgarian deserters declare that during the battle at Valandovo the Bulgarians exposed sixty Serbian prisoners of war to French artillery fire. All the prisoners were killed."

"On Friday night about ten o'clock the enemy twice opened an offensive against the railway station at Podcherevitshi, but was repulsed by our fire.

## VIENNA INSISTS ON ARGUING ANCONA CASE

### Text of Reply to American Note Made Public— Washington Dispatches Second Communication Reiterating Demands Made in First Message.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Having practically completed what is said to be almost an abrupt dismissal of Austria's arguments concerning the sinking of the Ancona, Secretary Lansing this afternoon gave out the text of Austria's note. Its most significant feature is its insistence on discussion of the evidence and the principles involved. It asks almost plaintively "why America refuses to an exchange of correspondence which it has conducted with another government in other cases."

The Austrian foreign office criticizes the American demand on the ground "that they might well have warranted the expectation that the government of the United States should precisely specify the actual circumstances of the affair upon which it bases its case."

The Vienna foreign office also points out that the United States failed "to designate the persons upon whose testimony it relied." It argues that the United States government attributes a higher degree of credibility to those unnamed persons than to the commander of the submarine. The note declares Austria ready and willing "to enter into an exchange of views."

It is also expressed in friendly language, that the nation of reparations to relatives who lost loved ones on the Ancona is a matter for further discussion. The note concludes that Austria reserves to itself "full freedom of maintaining its own legal views in the discussion of the case of the Ancona."

### Ready to Parley.

Secretary Lansing gave out at the same time a copy of the Austrian admiralty's official statement on which the United States position has been based.

### New American Note on Its Way

Washington, Dec. 18.—The new American note to Austria-Hungary regarding the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona is understood to have been cabled tonight to Ambassador Penhelfer for presentation to the Vienna foreign office.

Secretary of State Lansing and other officials of the State Department declined to divulge any information concerning the communication. From other reliable sources, however, came a strong intimation that the final draft of the note had been completed by Secretary of State Lansing during the day, and had been put in code and started on its way over the cables.

A veil of secrecy has surrounded the communication ever since a White House messenger carried a preliminary draft from President Wilson to Secretary of State Lansing last night. However, it is known that the secretary spent considerable time last night and today at work developing the idea the President has outlined. As completed, the note is believed to have been considerably more lengthy than the first.

Unless there are unforeseen developments, the note should be delivered in Vienna by Wednesday night. It will be made public when Secretary of State Lansing is advised that it has reached the Austro-Hungarian foreign office. A prompt reply is requested, and officials are of the opinion that one will come within ten days.

Certain portions of the text of the new note were said tonight to be nearly identical with portions of the first. The demands of the United States, which are reiterated, are for disavowal, punishment of the submarine commander, and reparation by the payment of an indemnity for the Americans killed and injured.

Austria-Hungary's rejoinder to the first note contained an implied request for details regarding the American citizens who were killed or injured. The State Department, it is said, has been unable to secure all of these names, and even though it has some of them, they probably have not been furnished to the Austro-Hungarian government. The United States is represented as being determined not to enter into any discussion of such details; this government being primarily concerned with the principles and the violations of law and neutrality rights involved.

State Department this afternoon says:

"In the matter of the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona, the undersigned

## German Munitions Plant On Syrian Coast Wrecked By French Cruiser

### Berlin Admits Loss of Cruiser Bremen and Torpedo Boat in Baltic Sea.

Paris, Dec. 18.—Two German hydro aeroplanes from the air station at Seeburg flying over the sea close to the water were destroyed and fired upon by a torpedo boat at a point ten miles to the north of Newport. One of these flying machines fell into the sea and the two officers on board were made prisoners, so it was announced here officially this afternoon.

### Cruiser and Torpedo Boat Sunk.

Amsterdam, Dec. 18.—It has been officially announced in Berlin that the small German cruiser Bremen and a torpedo boat were sunk by two British submarines.

## Allied Fleet and Land Batteries Hammering Turks at Dardanelles

Constantinople, Dec. 19, via London (11.15 a. m.)—Anglo-French squadrons and Allied land batteries yesterday bombarded Turkish positions at Avitburnu, and at Alij, on Gallipoli peninsula, says the official statement issued today by the Ottoman war department.

"In Mesopotamia, Turkish troops are said to be destroying defenses worked of every description in front of the British main position near Kut-el-Amara.

## Russian Forces Quit Roumanian Border For Attack in Buckowina?

London, Dec. 19.—There has been considerable speculation in London for some time as to what has become of the Russian troops which concentrated on the Roumanian border several weeks ago, with the apparent intention of entering the Balkan conflict. At the time when Russian cooperation in the Entente Allies' campaign would have been the most fortuitous they were described, in all reports, as poised on the Roumanian frontier, ready for an immediate invasion of Bulgaria, but after weeks of suspense, during which repeated rumors converted the long-heralded move into an accomplished fact, it was learned that the Russian incursion never advanced beyond the preparatory stage.

Recently an absolute lack of new developments regarding the Russian plan in this quarter led most observers to decide that hopes for a Russian interference were either premature or based upon circumstances since altered. It is now reported that the Russian force is being withdrawn from the Roumanian border.

Despatches to the Telegraph from Rotterdam quote the Berliner Tageblatt to the effect that the greater part of the Russian army concentrated in this section has already been moved from Rani northward to Bukovina, and that all plans for attacking the Bulgarians has been abandoned in favor of a new offensive against Bukovina.

## SEIZE STEAMER WITH SEVERAL HUNS ABOARD

### Str. United States Captured— Carried Number of Germans and Austrians en route to New York.

London, Dec. 19.—The Danish steamer United States was brought into the Clyde by a British warship Friday night, being diverted from her route while on the way from Copenhagen to New York. A large number of Germans and Austrians, with large sums of money in their possession, are said to be aboard. The mails from the ship were put ashore.

The steamer United States sailed from New York Nov. 18, and arrived at Copenhagen December 1. She called from that port for New York Dec. 12. She belongs to the Scandinavian-American Line.

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