

# REPORTED GREECE WILL WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM SALONIKI; ALLIES ALMOST ACROSS THE FRONTIER

## Athens Gov't Likely to Allow Allies' Troops to Fall Back on Saloniki

Late Reports Indicate Difficulties Being Smoothed Out as Result of Military Conference — Heavy Reinforcements Being Rushed to Saloniki and Reported Troops Have Been Landed at Kavala — Germans Withdraw to New Line in East.

Paris, Dec. 12.—According to information received here from Athens today the Greek government has agreed to withdraw its troops from Saloniki.

**SITUATION IMPROVED FOR BRITISH BY ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS.**

Paris, Dec. 12.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Saloniki dated Sunday, says: "An intense action continues along the Entente Allied fronts, the Bulgarians attacking in dense mass formations. The Allies retreat continues methodically. "The situation of the British north of Doiran has noticeably improved, thanks to the arrival of reinforcements from Saloniki. Fresh British troops are landing daily."

**DIFFICULTIES BEING SMOOTHED OUT.**

Paris, Dec. 12.—The military problems involved in the presence of troops of the Entente Allies at Saloniki are in a way of speedy solution, according to an official statement issued by the Greek government yesterday, transmitted by the Havas correspondent at Athens. The statement as forwarded by the correspondent, reads: "Yesterday afternoon the ministers of the Quadruple Entente called on the premier of the cabinet (Premier Skoufoulidis) with whom they exchanged views concerning the negotiations engaged in at Saloniki between the military authorities of the Entente and Greece regarding local questions of a military nature. These negotiations have entered upon a phase of definite solution."

Telegraphing from Athens, today the Havas correspondent says that Premier Skoufoulidis, in replying yesterday to the representatives of the Entente Powers, who pressed him for a prompt solution of the military problems in Macedonia, repeated that Greece was disposed to make every concession not incompatible with her sovereignty and the neutrality of the country. "It is certain," the despatch adds, "that the Entente diplomats, as a result of the discussion which followed the interview, were convinced that the Greek government was sincerely seeking a satisfactory solution of the problem. Assurance has been given in governmental circles that the Entente Powers will abstain in future from the use of coercive measures, the correspondent adds."

London, Dec. 12.—The Anglo-French troops, who last week began their retreat from their advanced positions in Southern Serbia, are now approaching, if they have not crossed the Greek frontier, and the attitude Greece will adopt becomes more and more important. Despatches from Athens, and news available in London, indicate that the matter, which was left to the Greek and allied military authorities at Saloniki, is being amicably arranged, and that the Allies will be allowed to retire to that city without any interference on the part of the Greeks, and will be permitted to remain there. Questions which are seriously occupying the Greek government have to do with the use of the railways which are needed for the Greek troops and the damage that might be done to them with the object of impeding Bulgarian pursuit, should the Sofia government decide that the British and French are to be followed into Greek territory. The Greek government has good evidence of the effective manner in which the French engineers destroy railways in the work done along the line north of the Greek frontier. So well was this accomplished that the Bulgarians were greatly delayed, having to use roads covered with snow, with the result that the French escaped almost unscathed.

**Will Likely Fortify Saloniki**

The British, who had advanced further from the railway to the north-east of Lake Doiran, had a much more difficult feat to accomplish, when retirement was decided upon, and suffered more heavily. They were faced by greatly superior forces, and, according to an official report issued tonight, their successful withdrawal to a position extending from Lake Doiran to the Vardar Valley was largely due to the gallantry of the Connaught Rangers, the Munster Fusiliers, and the Dublin Fusiliers.

The British casualties are estimated at 1,500, while they were forced to leave behind them eight field guns, which had been placed in position to cover the retirement, and could not be removed. "What the next move will be is known only to the allied staffs, but it is generally believed that the Anglo-French forces will fall right back to Saloniki, where reinforcements are arriving, and which will be fortified. There are also reports that the Allies have landed a division at Kavala, ninety miles along the coast from Saloniki, and near the Bulgarian frontier, but there is no confirmation of

ed Philippopolis, in Bulgaria, according to the Patria, which says that Austrian-German army corps is on its way to that town.

Kitchener and Grey Back in London. Paris, Dec. 11.—Foreign Secretary Grey and Earl Kitchener, at the conclusion of the Anglo-French conference left for London this evening.

**Russian Report.**

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 12.—The war office communication issued today says: "On the western (Russian) front there is no change in the situation. "In Galicia in the Stripsa region, small enemy detachments took the offensive in the villages of Marianka, Youzovka and Benista, southwest of Tarnopol, but were caught on both flanks. Some of them were killed and the remainder captured. "On the Caucasus front: In the coastal region of the Black Sea, southwest of Khipa, the Turks made attempts at an advance, but all the attempts were checked with heavy losses to them."

**Says Three British Battalions Surrendered.**

Berlin, Dec. 12, via wireless to Sayville.—"According to private advices from Constantinople," says the Overseas News Agency, today, "the three British battalions of the army that retreated down the Tiria from the city of Baghdad, were surrounded by Turkish troops near Kut-el-Amara, and surrendered. "It is expected that the British will retreat southward from Kut-el-Amara in the near future, as their posts in the rear are in danger of being cut off."

**Givgevell Doomed.**

Paris, Dec. 12.—Givgevell, in Southern Serbia, close to the Greek border, is being bombarded by Bulgarian and German artillery, their forces having pushed to within four miles of the town, according to a Havas despatch to Athens, filed on Saturday, the despatch being based on advices received from Saloniki. Occupation of Givgevell by the invaders is deemed imminent, the advices declare. "On the Doiran front, to the east of the railway line, where a violent artillery combat is in progress, the British troops are declared to be retiring in good order, following out the plans decided upon by the British and French staffs."

**British Reinforcements Still Landing at Saloniki.**

London, Dec. 12.—A despatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Saloniki, dated Friday, December 10, says: "Contingents of British troops were landed today. "Fog, which is most unusual here, continues to prevail at Saloniki and its environs."

**Says Allied Losses Were Heavy.**

London, Dec. 12.—Bulgarian troops, advancing against the Anglo-French expeditionary forces in Southern Serbia, have reached a point about fifteen miles from the Greek border on the Saloniki railway line, according to a statement issued in Sofia and received here by wireless from Berlin. Heavy losses have been inflicted upon the British and French forces during the retreat, it is declared.

**Retreating into Greece, Berlin Says.**

Berlin, Dec. 12, via London, 5.45 p. m.—The Anglo-French forces that have been under attack by the Bulgarians in Southern Serbia, are retreating at places over the Greek frontier, it is announced in today's official report by German army headquarters. Their losses in arms and equipment of various sorts have been heavy, it is declared. The capture of 6,500 prisoners and forty guns in the Montenegrin and Albanian campaign by Austro-Hungarian forces is reported.

**STMR. ULTONIA FROM QUEBEC REFLAGGED.**

London, Dec. 12.—The British steamer Ultonia, from Quebec, for St. Nazaire, which went aground at the latter port, has since been floated and entered the harbor there, undamaged.

## ELEVENTH HOUR RUSH TO JOIN VOLUNTEER ARMY

Crowds at the Recruiting Posts in England Saturday too Great for Officials to Handle.

London, Dec. 12.—The enrollment of volunteers, under Lord Derby's plan, for immediate and future military service, could not be completed yesterday on account of the numbers crowding the enlistment offices throughout the kingdom at the eleventh hour. Therefore the war office announced the extension of the time for enrolling to midnight Sunday, with a possible further extension to midnight Wednesday.

Recruiting continues today, and, if the numbers of the past two days are kept up, the total enlistment for the last three days will probably equal the total for any preceding three weeks. The process of enlistment was attended by propaganda and emotional proceedings. Bands and orators, both official and volunteer from military and civil life had been busy. The British should show the world that freemen are able and willing to defend their country, without compulsion.

After the enrollment is completed the war office will be obliged to secure those engaged in government work and "indispensable" to the industries. A large proportion of those enrolled may also be barred by the medical officers because the examinations of the past two days have been for the most part superficial, and, in many cases, dispensed with altogether. The medical officers being unable to keep up with the enrollments.

**Believe Lord Derby Has Won.**

There is no information at present regarding the number of new recruits, but the trade union leaders tonight confidently declared that the Derby campaign was a success. The last census gave the number of men in England, Scotland and Wales, between the ages of eighteen and forty years, as 8,100,000, nearly half of whom were single. The general understanding has been that about three million entered the army before Lord Derby's recruiting began, and it is believed that between eighty and ninety per cent of the remainder have presented themselves for attestation. From this total must be deducted three classes—the physically unfit, those engaged in munitions work, and those engaged in other necessary callings, such as railroading, mining, shipping and farming, whose numbers cannot be approximately estimated except by the officials.

## THREE YEAR OLD BOY SHOT ACCIDENTALLY

A revolver in the hands of a young brother caused an accident to Charles Gillet, aged three years, of Moore street, which took him to the General Public Hospital. The accident occurred about ten o'clock on Saturday night and Sunday an operation took place on the young lad's head. He is resting as comfortably as possible and all hopes are held out for his recovery.

**CONSUL-GENERAL TO CANADA**

Stockholm, via London, Dec. 12.—Dr. David K. Bergstrom, the former minister of war, has been appointed consul-general to Canada. This is a newly created office.

## RAINS MAKE TRENCH LIFE UNCOMFORTABLE

No Change on Canadian Front, Sir Max Aitken Reports.

**ENEMY PARTY GAUGHT BETWEEN TWO LINES.**

Patrols Continue to Show Superiority Over Germans—Some Daring Feats Recorded.

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Major General Sir Sam Hughes has received the following communication from the Canadian general representative in France: Canadian General Headquarters in France, Dec. 12.—During the week of Dec. 4 to the 10th there has been no material change in the general situation on the Canadian front. The weather has continued warm and there has been much rain.

On the afternoon of Dec. 7 the enemy bombarded some of our trenches and positions, mostly with high explosives. Very little material damage was done. In retaliation the enemy's front and communication trenches were heavily shelled by our artillery. With this exception the enemy's artillery has been less aggressive than in the previous week. The superior weight of our artillery fire has been well maintained throughout the period.

The heavy rains have rendered the low lying ground very swampy. Large working parties have been employed reorganizing and improving our trenches. German working parties were frequently seen by day, and as often fired on by our artillery with good effect. On one occasion a party of sixty Germans was caught by our artillery fire in a shallow communication trench. Several casualties were reported to result.

On the 5th of December we exploded a mine and successfully blew up a German gallery, from which sounds of mingling had been heard. The enemy has displayed increased activity in patrolling. On the night of December 8th an enemy bombing party was discovered approaching our trenches. Rapid fire was opened and the enemy was driven off.

**Good Work by Patrols.**

Our patrols have also been active. On the night of December 3, a small patrol, under Lieut. H. Rant and Lieut. A. V. Evans of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, reconnoitered a small work constructed in front of the enemy line on the previous night. An enemy party was heard at work, and bombs were thrown among by our patrols. The enemy replied with machine gun fire, but our patrol retired without casualties.

On the night of December 6 a patrol of Royal Canadian Dragoons, under Lieut. E. W. Lindsay and Lieut. A. B. Irving, entered a German sap and followed it inwards to the edge of the German wire. At this point a German patrol was encountered and bombed, after which our patrol withdrew safely.

On the night of December 7 a patrol of our 2nd (Ontario) battalion, under Lieut. G. T. Richardson, cut through the hostile wire and climbed on the top of the enemy parapet. A party of five Germans were seen in the trench and successfully bombed.

On the afternoon of December 8th Private Lindsay, of Lord Strathcona Horse, crawled out from our lines and looked over the enemy parapet. After counting the enemy in the trench and identifying the regimental badges on their caps he returned undetected to our lines.

Some cases of "trench fever" and influenza have been reported but the general health of our troops continues very good.

## EARL OF ROSEBURG'S OPINION OF PEACE PARTY

Edinburgh, Dec. 12.—"At this moment there is coming over a vessel fraught with peace," said the Earl of Roseburg, the former prime minister, in a speech here last night. "It is propelled apparently by a gentleman

## RUSSIA MOBILIZING ARMY ON ROUMANIAN FRONTIER

HARBOR AT RENI, DANUBE PORT, CLOSED SINCE MONDAY LAST WHILE WARSHIPS LEAVE FOR KILIA — TWO TURKISH GUNBOATS SUNK IN ENCOUNTER WITH RUSSIAN WARSHIPS IN BLACK SEA.

Berlin, Dec. 12, by wireless to Sayville.—Advices received here today indicate that the Russians are hurriedly concentrating troops along the Roumanian border. The Austrian forces in Bukovina also are being reinforced heavily.

A Bucharest despatch, forwarded by way of Budapest, says that the harbor at Reni, the Russian Danube port, at which troops have been concentrated for some time, has been closed to passenger and freight traffic since Monday because of the forthcoming arrival of additional transport ships. Three Russian warships sailed on Monday night from Reni for Kilias, on the Danube, near the entrance to the Black Sea. The despatch says that the Russians are erecting large munitions depots along the Danube, near the Delta. Russian officers assert an attack is soon to be made on Cernowitz, the capital of Bukovina.

Railway traffic with Russia over the line through Ugeni, on the northern Roumanian border has been suspended since Saturday of last week. Telephone and telegraphic communication with Bessarabia also has been suspended. Ten thousand Russian soldiers are constructing a railway line from Reni thirty miles eastward to Ismail.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 12.—The following official statement from general headquarters was issued here tonight: "Western front: There has been no change along the whole front. "The enemy, on Friday, attacked from the region of Kupchinso, on the Stripsa west of Tarnopol, but was repulsed and withdrew to his trenches. "In the Balk Sea, near the island of Kephken, east of the Bosphorus, on Friday, three of our torpedo boats, after an artillery action, sank two

Turkish gunboats. The torpedo boats suffered no losses. The torpedo boats also sank a large sailing vessel. "On the Caucasus (on the road towards Hamadan) our troops, while pursuing a Turco-German detachment, defeated the previous evening, captured at one bound the fortified positions of the enemy on the Sultan Bulac Ride."

**Brilliant Work by Connaught Rangers**

London, Dec. 12.—Casualties aggregating 1,500 and the loss of eight field guns which they were unable to remove from emplacements, are told in an official communication issued this evening, dealing with the retreat of the British Tenth Division from Lake Doiran, Serbia, in conjunction with the French. Special mention is made of the gallantry of the Connaught Rangers during the battle. The communication says: "After sustaining violent attacks, delivered by the enemy in overwhelming numbers, the Tenth Division succeeded, with the help of reinforcements, in retiring to a strong position on Lake Doiran, westward towards the valley of the Vardar in conjunction with one-Allies."

The division is reported to have fought well against very heavy odds, and it was largely due to the gallantry of the troops, especially the Connaught Rangers, the Munster Fusiliers, and the Dublin Fusiliers, that the withdrawal was successfully accomplished.

"Owing to the mountainous nature of the country it had been necessary to place eight field guns for the purpose of defense in positions from which it was impossible to withdraw them, when the retirement took place. "Our casualties amounted to 1,500 men."

## STANDARD OIL STEAMER SENDS OUT DISTRESS CALL

Str. Kwanto Also Reported in Trouble and Probably Total Wreck off Magdalen-Islands

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 12.—C. H. Harvey, agent of marine and fisheries department, received today a despatch from Cape Race, stating that the tank steamer Shabonee, stripped of her propeller was calling for assistance of Standard Oil or American Oil tankers and was proceeding to St. John's Nfld. The Shabonee is of 5,167 gross tonnage.

The marine and fisheries department received through the wireless station at Pictou, from the lightkeeper at Bryan Island, Magdalen Islands, a message stating the steamer Kwanto (or Kwinto) was ashore near there and in a dangerous position, if the weather did not moderate. Another message from the same place a little later stated the Kwanto was a new vessel of about 1,000 tons and that the crew were safe. This would become a total wreck.

Steamer St. Kilida from Sydney with a cargo of coal is ashore at St. Pierre, Miquelon.

Steamer Newbiggen, struck the rocks off Canso, but was floated and has reached Louisbourg, C. B., safely.

named Ford, who makes, I think, personal calls. He is coming over to pour oil on troubled waters at the inspiration of a Dr. Aked, of whom we know something here, and who, by voice more potent than that of any mortal heard in this world, is going to call the soldiers from the trenches and bid the waves be still.

"The expedition will fail, but that the eighty passengers receiving free passages may enjoy themselves, and do no mischief, is my earnest solicitation."

## KITCHENER NOT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED

Attempts to Save Serbians Might Have Succeeded if Expedition Sent to Some Other Place Than Saloniki.

Paris, Dec. 12.—Earl Kitchener, the British secretary of war, the Temps says, was unfavorably impressed, in the course of his Mediterranean visit, by the serious delays and difficulties which interfered with the expedition to Saloniki. The attempts to rescue the Serbians which failed, it seemed to him, might have been tried elsewhere with more chance of success.

These ideas were discussed at the Canal conference, and then examined by the war council of the Allies, held under the presidency of General Joffre, says the Temps, which adds: "Three days ago Earl Kitchener and Sir Edward Grey returned to Paris, and the result of the agreement regarding the Balkan campaign was the despatch of identical instructions by the foreign ministers of France and Great Britain to the diplomatic representatives of those countries at Athens. Gen. Sarrail (the French commander) and Gen. Sir Charles C. Monro (the British commander) thus received instructions, countersigned by the war ministers of France and Great Britain and the French commander-in-chief.

Complete unity is now established between the two governments, and immediately reflected in their military action on the Vardar. The happy effect of this co-ordination is now making itself felt."