

# ALLIES FOLLOWING UP ADVANTAGES THEY HAVE GAINED ALONG THE YSER

## French Artillery Outranging German Guns in Extensive Offensive Movement Allies are Making from Coast and Along Entire Battle Line — Servians Reported to Have Resumed Offensive — Drive Austrian Right Wing Back.

Paris, Dec. 7, 3 p. m.—The French war office gave out an official communication this afternoon as follows:

"In the region of the Yser we continue to attack the few entrenched positions still held by the enemy on the left bank of the canal.

"In the region of Armentières and of Arras, as well as in the Oise territory, in the Aisne region and in the Argonne, there is nothing to report, except to refer in general terms to the superiority of our offensive.

"In Champagne our heavy artillery on several different occasions has shown marked superiority over that of the enemy.

"There is nothing new on the eastern front of our line, where the positions of preceding days have been maintained."

London, Dec. 7.—Progress has been made toward an understanding in the Balkan States which will be satisfactory to the allies, according to the Athens correspondent of the Telegraph who understands that a basis has been reached for a rapprochement between Serbia and Bulgaria. The British, Russian and French ministers have visited Eleutherios Venizelos, the Greek premier, the correspondent reports, and he says that the Greek newspapers declare that the visits concerned proposals that Greece should assist Serbia.

Paris, Dec. 7.—A despatch from Nish, Serbia, to the Havas Agency, reports that the Servians, since December 3, have resumed a vigorous offensive. The Servian troops on Friday, the despatch says, pursued the enemy's right wing as far as the Kolubara River, and it was there that the Austrians abandoned four of their batteries.

Paris, Dec. 7.—The French artillery is now outranging the Germans and pouring more effective shells along the line. This is indicated in the latest official statement from the war office, and is accepted today as evidence that the new guns which have been expected by the French have been brought up and are being used extensively in the offensive movement the allies are pushing from the coast and along the entire battle line.

Heavy fighting is reported in Alsace today, in the Argonne the German trenches are being vigorously assailed by artillery, and through mining operations. All new positions taken by the allied troops along the Yser have been held and the advantage is being followed up with the greatest determination. The French artillery forced the Germans to evacuate Verméles.

## OVER 25,000 PRISONERS AT DETENTION CAMPS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

London, Nov. 24.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—An investigation of the detention camps at Newbury, Frimley, the Olympia in London, and Douglas, Isle of Man, where German and Austrian prisoners are held, shows that in these camps there are nearly fourteen thousand prisoners. The number throughout the British Isles is about twenty-five thousand. There is discomfort and discontent, but the prisoners are not subjected to genuine hardships. With the coming of cold weather the suffering among those compelled to live in tents is keen, for the tents are not heated. They are being abandoned, however, and in a fortnight more, all prisoners will be under permanent cover. Several thousands will be placed aboard nine ships which are being prepared for the purpose. Some of these ships are liners which have been in the Atlantic service, and it is expected that aboard them the prisoners will be comfortable.

Are Well Fed  
Medical reports show the health of the prisoners to be good. The treatment accorded them so far as food and accommodations are concerned is virtually the same as that afforded the British soldiers.

In these four camps there have been only ten deaths. Five of the prisoners were killed by the guards during the recent rioting at the camp at Douglas. Four deaths were due to natural causes, not related with the rigors of confinement. The tenth death was an accident, a German soldier being thrown from a motor truck.

Olympia, a vast, dark and gloomy place, is a sort of clearing house for the alien enemies. When rounded up in London they are confined there for a brief period and then sent to regularly established camps elsewhere. At the beginning there was great discomfort. No preparations had been made for the reception of thousands of prisoners. They were compelled to sleep on stone floors. The food, while ample, was not well prepared. But conditions have steadily improved.

The greatest suffering is experienced by those who live under canvas. Recently prisoners at Newbury, Douglas and Frimley have awakened in the morning to find ice in the bottom of their cups.

The tents have wooden floors and each prisoner has a straw mattress and four blankets.

The Prisoners' Rations  
All the prisoners need clothing and they are given good apparel, including heavy overcoats, suits and shirts and underclothes, socks and army boots, as well as necessary toilet articles. A similar outfit could hardly be purchased in New York for \$35. The food is issued by the British admiralty commissariat. Each prisoner is given daily eight ounces of fresh meat, eight of vegetables, two of white bread, condensed milk, tea, butter and salt and pepper. The materials are turned over to the prisoners, some of whom are cooks, and prepared by them.

Prisoners are allowed all possible liberty. Football and other games may be played except at the Douglas camp, where privileges were curtailed on account of the riot. Infractions of camp discipline are punished by confinement on bread and water.

Military prisoners—soldiers and sailors—are kept in separate camps from the civilians. It was found that they could not get along together. At Frimley there was the beginning of a pitched battle over a discussion of a bravery, the civilians accusing the soldiers of having surrendered and the soldiers accusing the civilians of trying to go to the front and shoot

ing their duty. British soldiers intervened with bayonets and brought the matter to an end.

Paid For Their Work  
The military prisoners receive practically the same treatment as civilians. They are in military organization under command of their own non-commissioned officers. The soldiers at Frimley are taken out in parties of several hundred men to work on roads, cut wood and perform other duties. For this they are paid at the same rate given British soldiers for similar work.

## PRIZE COURT DECIDES OIL CARGO OF BR. STEAMER WAS GERMAN-OWNED

London, Dec. 7.—The prize court settled an interesting legal point today by ruling that the entire cargo of oil of the British tank steamer Roumanian, which sailed on November 17 from Port Arthur, Texas, for Hull, was subject to seizure because it was German-owned. This decision upset the contention of the defence that 4,800 tons of oil, which at the time of seizure had been discharged at Purfleet, Eng., was immune from confiscation.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, DAY OF INTERCESSION

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 7.—The order-in-council appointing Sunday, January 3, as a day of prayer throughout the Dominion for the success of Britain and her allies and for an early peace, recites that: "Whereas our Empire has been forced to take up arms in defence of rights and liberties unjustly attacked and to fulfill pledges solemnly given, and whereas we therefore believe it to be fitting that our people should be enabled to make a public and solemn avowal of duty to Almighty God and of need of guidance, have thought fit by and with the advice of our Privy Council for Canada, to appoint, and we do hereby appoint, Sunday the third day of January next to be throughout our Dominion of Canada a day of humble prayer and intercession to Almighty God on behalf of the cause undertaken by our Empire and our allies and of those who are offering their lives for it and for a speedy and favorable peace that shall be founded on understanding and not hatred, to the end that peace shall endure and we do invite all our loving subjects throughout Canada to set apart this appointed day as a day of humble prayer and intercession."

## NORWEGIAN STEAMER GOES TO BOTTOM

London, Dec. 7.—The Norwegian steamer Nygard, previously reported ashore off Esbjerg, Denmark, has been driven a mile near the coast line and has gone to the bottom. The Nygard from Port Arthur and Pensacola for Esbjerg was reported ashore November 26, with fifteen feet of water in her hold. On this same day her crew were landed safely at Esbjerg.

## GERMAN SUBMARINE OPERATING AGAINST BRITISH FLEET

