

DOUBT AS TO "FRIENDLINESS" OF NEUTRALITY RAISED BY LATEST MOVE OF GREEK GOVT

CHURCHILL VINDICATES HIMSELF IN COMMONS

Reply to Critics Wins Sympathy of the House as He Proves the Injustice of Reproaches Hurlled at Him for Actions as Head of the Admiralty—Explains Origin of Antwerp Expedition and Dardanelles Campaign—Lord Fisher Condemned.

London, Nov. 15.—Winston Spencer Churchill, who has been the most severely criticized member of the government, and who has been held personally responsible for the loss of Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock's fleet in the Pacific, the destruction by submarines of the British cruisers Cressy, Hogue and Aboukir, the Antwerp expedition and the initiation of the naval attack on the Dardanelles, delivered a speech in his own defence in the House of Commons today, following the resignation of his post in the cabinet.

"I won't have it said," was his dramatic assertion, referring to the Dardanelles attack, "that this was a civilian plan, foisted by a political amateur upon a reluctant officers and experts."

And this sums up his reply to all his critics. In every case he shows that experts had counselled and concurred before any of the expeditions which had been condemned were undertaken, and it was clear, before he had gone far, that the House of Commons sympathized with him.

For months Mr. Churchill has lived under reproaches. His entrance to the House today was passed almost unnoticed. As he rose his supporters gave him encouraging cheers. Applauding increased in volume he answered one charge after another, and he concluded amidst a hurricane of applause, while members of all political parties crossed the House to congratulate him.

There was nothing apologetic about the speech of the former first lord of the admiralty, who some months ago was transferred to the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster, which post he has just resigned. His references to Admiral Lord Fisher, the former First Sea Lord, who, he said, had not openly opposed the Dardanelles undertaking, were spoken in firm tones of condemnation. In the opinion of the House Mr. Churchill fully justified every step he took while head of the admiralty. As to the despatch of Rear Admiral Cradock's squadron, he said he was in full agreement with the experts and advisers of that time—Admiral Prince Louis of Battenberg and Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee—and that the dispositions were the best that could be made in the circumstances.

No Action Taken.

There was no truth in the charge that he had ordered, against the advice of the experts, the Hogue, Cressy and Aboukir to remain at sea, where they were sunk by German submarines. The Antwerp expedition originated with Lord Kitchener, the secretary for war, and the French government; while the naval attack on the Dardanelles was elaborately considered and had the full support of the admiralty at home and those on the spot.

Both with regard to Antwerp and the Dardanelles, Mr. Churchill, for the purpose of defending himself against reproaches, went a little further than merely producing evidence that he had followed expert advice. A month before the Antwerp expedition was undertaken, he said, he had advised with Premier Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, and Lord Kitchener, as to the dangerous situation developing there, and the grave consequences to admiralty interests that would result from the loss of the fortress. "But," he added, "no action was taken."

As to the Dardanelles, before a naval attack was undertaken, he offered to provide transports for 40,000 troops from Egypt, on the chance of their being wanted, but was informed that no troops were available, and that if they were, they should not be used at Gallipoli. The naval attack was endorsed by Vice Admiral Carden, who was in command at the time; by the war council, which Lord Fisher attended, and where nobody spoke a word against it, and by the French ministry of marine.

The third attack was about to begin on March 18, when, after consultation with Admiral Robeck and General Sir Ian Hamilton, it was decided to postpone it until the troops were ready.

He opposed delay, but was overruled by the experts. He rather inclined his speech to criticize the long periods which were allowed to elapse between the attacks since the army landed.

Mr. Churchill paid a tribute to Lord Fisher, for the improvements he had introduced in the navy since the outbreak of the war, and expressed confidence that ultimate victory would be achieved through the destruction of German manhood and the increasing strength of the allies.

London, Nov. 15.—In his speech in the House of Commons today Mr. Churchill declared that if any operations in the history of the world were worth carrying through with sustained fury and utter disregard of life, the operations at the Dardanelles were worth it.

"We are passing through a bad time, which probably will be worse before it is better, but it will be better," Mr. Churchill said. "If we endure, the campaign of 1916 should be decided against Germany by her shortage of men."

Regarding the Dardanelles, Mr. Churchill declared that the admiral on the spot said they could not be taken with a rush, but that the fortifications might be reduced gradually by bombardment.

Admiral John Fisher, then first sea lord, was opposed to a reduction of Great Britain's naval strength in home waters, but never criticized the method of attack on the Dardanelles.

Mr. Churchill declared he did not receive clear guidance from Admiral Fisher before the expedition was decided upon, or the subsequent firm support whereto he was entitled.

In making his promised statement Mr. Churchill dealt with episodes during his tenure of office as head of the admiralty rather than with his resignation. He said his letter to Premier Asquith gave fully and truthfully the reasons which led him to ask for release from the government. These reasons did not apply to any member of the cabinet who was not in the war council.

"Moreover, I alone have open to me an alternative form of service where to no exception can be taken, and wherewith I am perfectly content," he continued.

"Turning to the naval battle off the Gallipoli coast last year, in which a British squadron was defeated by the Germans, Mr. Churchill said he had been in full agreement with his expert advisers. The admiralty's dispositions of warships were sound and were the best under the circumstances. Documentary evidence would make this clear without detracting from the gallantry and devotion of Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, who lost his life when the Good Hope went down."

Kitchener and French Government Planned Antwerp Affair.

The suggestion that he had overruled his naval advisers and kept the old cruisers Hogue, Cressy and Aboukir at sea, thus causing their destruction by a German submarine last year, was characterized by Mr. Churchill as untrue. He said it was for A. J. Balfour, the present first lord of the admiralty, to determine whether or not the papers should be published.

He himself had no desire to press for the publication of papers which might prejudice officers now in the service.

Regarding the Antwerp expedition Mr. Churchill said it was not arranged by him, but had been planned by Field Marshal Kitchener and the French government. He was not concerned with it or consulted until the arrangements were advanced a long way and until the troops were moving or were under orders to move.

"At a midnight conference I learned that plans for sending a relieving army to Antwerp, already far advanced, were being considered in concert by Field Marshal Kitchener and the French government," Mr. Churchill continued. "But that they had not yet reached the point where definite offers or promises could be made to the Belgian government and that the same

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Constantine Shows Signs of Further Repudiating His Obligations to Allies

Intimates that Allied Soldiers Seeking Refuge in Greek Territory will be Disarmed.

KING MAY OVERRULE CONSTITUTION AGAIN.

Constantine Seems Bent on Repudiating Debt Nation Owes Entente Powers for Guaranteeing Constitution of Greece.

London, Nov. 15.—The intimation of the Greek government that any Entente Allied troops seeking refuge in Greek territory will be disarmed has been the cause of considerable anxiety to the Entente Powers, and consequently Field Marshal Earl Kitchener's near east visit gains added importance.

According to belated despatches received from Athens, Greece bases her decision on international law, while the Entente ministers contend that the right accorded troops to enter the country through Saloniki permits them to retire by the same route, should it become necessary for them to do so. The ministers are demanding that Greece unequivocally define the attitude she will observe, should such an eventuality present itself.

Besides the claims to hospitality which the Entente Allies declare they have on Greece, in view of the help Premier Venizelos' invitation to them to send a force to Saloniki, to enable Greece to fulfill her treaty obligations to Serbia, which, however, Greece repudiated, Earl Kitchener, or the Entente ministers are likely to draw the attention of King Constantine and his government to the fact that the constitution of Greece was guaranteed by France, Russia and Great Britain, and that it was only obtained after Great Britain had ceded the Ionian Islands to that country, and the three powers had agreed to contribute 4,000,000 pounds (\$20,000,000) yearly for the personal use of the King.

This, it is contended, binds the Greek people to the Entente Allies, and should King Constantine overrule the constitution, which the followers of M. Venizelos insist he did when he dissolved the chamber, it is suggested, in some quarters, that King Constantine would be reminded that his retention of the throne of Greece depends on the continuance of friendly neutrality toward the Entente Powers.

The Germans, on the other hand, are declared to be assuring the Greek government that Greece will be protected against the Entente Allies, that country support the Central Powers; and that in evidence of the ability of Austria and Germany to do this they are despatching more submarines to the Mediterranean which could be used against any fleet threatening Greek ports.

In the south there is little or no change. In the district northwest of Ukip the Serbians still hold the Katanchak defile, barring the Bulgarians from the great plain of Kosovo, while to the southwest of Ukip a desperate struggle has taken place for possession of Tetovo which has changed hands several times. The Bulgarians recaptured Tetovo yesterday, but a report received at the Serbian legation tonight says the Serbians again have re-occupied the town.

The Bulgarians are reported in great force southwest of Velez, where they hope to check the French advance on that town, and in the direction of the Babuna Pass, farthest west.

There has been a revival of hard fighting on the western front. The Germans claim to have captured three hundred metres of a trench near Ececie, while French report the repulse of German attacks against the Labyrinth in Artois and also against Tahure in Champagne.

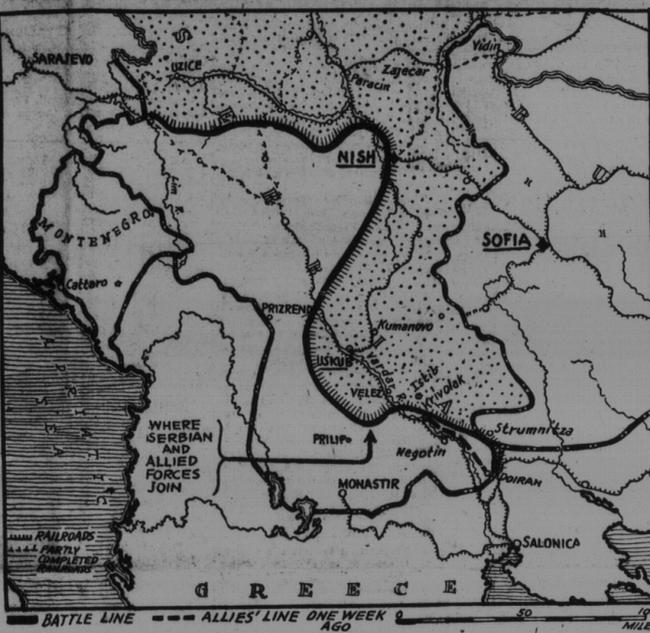
The Montenegrin Army Paris, Nov. 15.—The official communication of the Montenegrin government received here today says: "The enemy, on the 13th attacked on the entire front our army of the Sanjak. He was repulsed everywhere except in the region of Visegrad, where we had to retreat to better positions. The Austrians sustained heavy losses."

"There have been artillery combats on the other fronts."

Rome, via Paris, Nov. 15.—It is officially announced that two Austrian aeroplanes bombarded Brescia at eight o'clock this morning, killing seven persons and wounding ten. No material damage was done.

Brescia Bombed by Airships.

FRONT ON WHICH ALLIES ARE FIGHTING IN SERBIA



SERBIAN DEFENCE SLOWS UP BULGARS' ADVANCE

Invader Finds Foe's Resistance Too Strong to Permit Much Headway—Tetovo Reported Taken Again by Serbians—Heavy Fighting Again in West—British Forces Within Short Distance of Bagdad.

London, Nov. 15.—The fight for Serbia proceeds without abatement. The Austro-Germans and Bulgarians claim repeated successes, but it is apparent that their progress is slow, the Serbians now having reached their mountain fortresses in Central Serbia, and the roads, or want of roads, making it difficult for the invaders to bring up their artillery, with which they always back up their infantry.

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STEAMER FROM SYDNEY OVERDUE IN ENGLAND

Left With Cargo of Steel on Oct. 16 and Has Not Been Heard from Since.

Sydney, N. S., Nov. 15.—S. S. Dunelm, which left Sydney on Saturday October 16 with a full cargo of steel products from the Steel Works for Manchester, Eng., has not yet reported at any port in England or Ireland, and it is feared that she has met with disaster, either being sunk by a German submarine or foundered at sea. Although there have been no reports published in England of vessels lately sunk by the submarines in English waters, which have been very inactive there lately, yet there is plenty of room for supposition that this steamer was torpedoed, for the usual trip only takes about fifteen days. She had a gross tonnage of 2,319 tons and a net of 1,481. She carried a crew of 25 men.

The Dunelm was owned by the Canadian S. S. Lines Limited, Montreal, and under charter to the Dominion Iron & Steel Company.

KITCHENER AT LEMNOS?

Milan, via London, Nov. 16.—The Corriere Della Sera reports that Earl Kitchener, the British war secretary, has arrived at Mudros, on the Island of Lemnos, in the Aegean Sea.

Lemnos, where Earl Kitchener has arrived, is a Greek island about 120 miles southeast of Saloniki, and about forty miles from the Gallipoli peninsula. Recently British and French transports have been reported in the harbor of Mudros, which probably is being used as a base for the operations in both the Dardanelles and the Balkans.

BOMB PLOTTER TELLS POLICE LIFE STORY

No Doubt Fay Served in the German Army.

MASTER HAND BEHIND MOST OF THE PLOTS.

His Story Helps Police Trace Source of Other Recent Discoveries in United States.

New York, Nov. 15.—Robert Fay, self-styled lieutenant in the German army, and by his own confession head of a gang of bomb makers that sought to destroy munition-laden ships sailing from New York to Allies, told the story of his life today to Assistant United States District Attorney Knox. Fay talked freely, fully and of his own volition for five hours without interruption. What he said was not made public, but at the conclusion of the session Mr. Knox announced that all Fay wanted to do now was to plead guilty to the government's charge against him and go to jail.

Fay's long talk with Mr. Knox was made on his own solicitation, and without promise of immunity or leniency. The statement which the prisoner dictated carried him back to Germany, almost to the date of his birth, covering the high lights of his service in the German army, and told in detail of his alleged mission to America, and recited his movements and activities here. Whether it was true in its essentials, District Attorney Marshall said afterwards, had yet to be determined, but in some respects it was verified by information which the government had collected from other sources.

"There is no doubt," Mr. Marshall said, "that his name is really Fay, and that he served in the German army. As to the rest, we don't know. His statements differ somewhat from his previous story, but admit his guilt of the charges against him."

Master Hand Behind the Plots.

What Fay told Mr. Knox today leads back to a source to which already has been traced another case under investigation by the government, according to Roger B. Wood, an assistant in Mr. Marshall's office. Mr. Wood has prepared most of the cases in the passport frauds, and also prepared the government case against Karl Buecz and other officials of the Hamburg-American line, indicted on a charge of conspiracy, and to be placed on trial this week.

"Five cases of this sort lead back to four sources," Mr. Wood said. "These are the Fay case, the Buecz case and the three passport frauds cases. In none of the cases did the actual defendants know what the defendants in the other cases were doing. The four sources, however, directing these five cases are very close together—very. It is my belief that these four men all reported to and took their orders from a fifth man, who was the director of all the trouble of this sort in the United States."

"If you could prove this," Mr. Wood was asked, "would you, or could you, prosecute this fifth man?"

"All I can say to that," he replied, "is that under the law we cannot prosecute any diplomatic representative of a foreign country."

When Fay ended his long statement, late today, he was taken back to the toms, to remain there till tomorrow, when he will be questioned by Mr. Knox.

Both Mr. Marshall and Mr. Knox declined to say if anyone else were implicated in Fay's new statement.

PROHIBITION LIKELY TO CARRY IN Nfld.

St. Johns, Nfld., Nov. 15.—Fortune Bay district declared the polls in the prohibition election today. The result was 1,091 votes for prohibition, 110 against. This leaves only 685 votes from St. Barbo district to carry prohibition for the whole island, and it is generally conceded that more than this number will be obtained.