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## ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES NOW NEARING THE GREEK FRONTIER

Attitude of Greece Becomes More Important—An Athen's Despatch Says Matters Have Been Amicably Arranged and That Allies Will Retire to Saloniki—French Destroy Railroads and Delay Bulgarians

### DIFFICULT FEAT OF BRITISH ACCOMPLISHED

Germans Retire From Positions on Bug River Line as They Are Unable to Hold Control of Railway—Arrival of Winter Weather on Western Front May Cause Attacks by One Side or the Other

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Anglo-French troops who, last week, began their retirement from their advanced positions in southern Serbia are now approaching, if they have not already crossed, the Greek frontier, and the attitude that Greece will adopt becomes more and more important. Despatches from Athens and the news available in London indicate that the matter which was left to the Greek and Allied military authorities at Salonika was being amicably arranged, and that the Allies will be allowed to retire to that city without any interruption on the part of the Greeks and will be permitted to remain.

These questions which are seriously occupying the Greek government have to do with the use of railways which are needed for Greek troops, and the damage that might be done with the object of impeding the Bulgarians' pursuit, should the Sofia Government decide that the British and French are to be followed to Greek territory.

The Greek government has good evidence of the effective manner in which French engineers destroy the railways in the work done along the line north of Greek frontiers. So well was this accomplished that the Bulgarians were greatly delayed in having to use roads covered with snow, with the result that the French escaped almost unscathed.

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

## BIG BATTLE BETWEEN BULGARS AND BRITISH AROUND STRUMITZA

Big Battle Between Bulgars and Connaught Rangers, Munster and Dublin Fusiliers Display Great Bravery in Face of Heavy Odds—British Now Prepare New Line of Defence Close to Greek Border Line—French Reinforcements Arriving at Saloniki

PARIS, Dec. 12.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Athens, states:—

"Reports from Salonika are to the effect that the Bulgarians, reinforced by the army of Genl. Boyadif, have occupied part of the passes of Demirkapu. A battle all along the Strumitza front between the Bulgarians and British, the latter of whom received reinforcements with heavy artillery, continued all day without significant results. In the meantime the British are preparing a new line of defence close to the Greek frontier. French reinforcements continue to arrive at Salonika.

Casualties aggregating 1500 and the loss of eight field guns, which they were unable to remove from

The British casualties are estimated at 1500, while they were forced to leave behind them eight field guns, which had been placed in position to cover the retirement and which could not be removed.

Despatches from Petrograd indicate the Germans are withdrawing from the centre to what is known as the Bug River line, which, however, at some places is considerably north-east of that river. This withdrawal is due to their inability to secure complete control of the Lida-Baranovitschi-Rovono railway, which was necessary for a successful holding of the advanced positions, which they had reached after their great drive last summer. They have evacuated Slonim lying to the west of Baranovitschi and Kobron just to the east of Brest-Litovsk, which they are making the centre of their new line. These are being very strongly fortified. This suggests the Germans hope to create a stalemate in the East as they did in the West.

There has been increased artillery activity on the Western front and the arrival of colder weather may force shadow attacks from one side or the other. It is generally believed the Germans will make an attempt this time, as they have brought up a large amount of artillery.

There is no further news from Mesopotamia, while Gallipoli official accounts simply repeat the story of artillery engagements.

### French Artillery Causes Damage

PARIS, Dec. 11.—The report from the War Office this afternoon follows:—

"The night was calm except in Champagne, where notwithstanding steady rain there was lively cannonading, as well as several engagements at close quarters with torpedoes.

Further details of the fighting yesterday confirmed the previous information concerning the effective work of our artillery between the Oise and Aisne, in the plateau of Quendevieres, and in the region of Vendresse and Troyon.

"Our trench guns wrought serious damage to the fortifications and bomb throwing machines of the enemy.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Foreign Secretary Grey and Earl Kitchener, at the conclusion of an Anglo-French Conference, left for London this evening.

their emplacements, are told of in an official communication issued this evening dealing with the retreat of the British Tenth Division from Lake Doiran in 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 from Lake Doiran westward toward the valley of the Vardar, in conjunction with our Allies.

"The Division is reported to have fought well against very heavy odds. It was largely due to the gallantry of the troops, especially the Connaught Rangers, Munster Fusiliers and 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 defence, in positions from which it was impossible to withdraw them when retirement took place."

## CHANGES OUTLINED BY GREY

Beginning on Dec. 20 Censorship by Press Bureau on Behalf of Foreign Office Shall be Suspended

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Sir Edward Grey has arranged that from Dec. 20, 1915 censorship by the Press Bureau on behalf of the Foreign Office shall be suspended. This will not mean a change in the provisions of the defence of the Realm Act, or of the regulations made there under.

They will be binding as heretofore, but the responsibility of seeing that they are complied with as regards the matter to be telegraphed abroad from this country the responsibility will rest with the senders of such telegrams. Censorship Press telegrams from one foreign country to another over British cables will remain unaltered, since senders of such telegrams are not within British jurisdiction and cannot be proceeded against under the defence of the Realm Act. Nothing in this announcement affects the existing arrangements for naval or military matters where wholly different considerations apply not the censorship of other matters, save so far as they relate foreign affairs.

### Negotiations Proceeding Satisfactorily

PARIS, Dec. 13.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Athens, dated Sunday, says:—

"According to semi-official sources, a definite solution of the questions pending between Greece and the Entente Powers has been nearly reached. Colonel Phaliss, of the Greek Army, after an interview with General Sarraill, Commander of the French Army in the Balkans, declared that negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily.

The Entente Allies' retreat is proceeding slowly, but normally and in security. The French and British are taking time to destroy tunnels and bridges in order to prevent the enemy from following too closely.

### SAYS GREECE HAS JOINED GERMANY

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—A news despatch from Athens published here today says that King Constantine of Greece has decided to throw in his lot with the Teutons. This is indicated by official orders and announcements issued to-day.

The King has informed the Entente Ambassadors that he cannot yield to their demands. It was authoritatively announced that Greece has refused to make any more concessions to the Allied Powers at present, and that conversations with the Allied diplomats has ended.

This announcement came a few hours after the arrival of unconfirmed reports that the Allies were evacuating Serbia.

## OFFICIAL FRENCH

PARIS, Dec. 12 (official)—On the 9th the enemy again vigorously attacked our positions near Mabourge. We repulsed the attack, capturing thirty prisoners. Fighting continued all day in the direction of Sienna and Brodarevo.

The situation is unchanged on other fronts.

### WILL ATTACK EGYPT

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Despatches yesterday said that Von Mackenzen had been received in audience by Emperor Francis Joseph, but did not state what his mission was in Vienna.

Military experts have predicted for some time that German success in the Balkans would be followed by an attack on Egypt.

Some of them point to the latest development as confirmation of that prediction.

## ANNIHILATED BULGARIAN REGIMENT

Saloniki, Dec. 13.—In the defile of the Demur Kapu during the Anglo-French retirement the Bulgarians suffered a crushing defeat by great strategem. The enemy was made to believe that the French were in retreat through the defile. They attempted to pursue the French and when their troops were well in the defile two French regiments with battery of machine guns cleverly hidden suddenly opened a murderous fire. The eleventh Bulgarian regiment was completely exterminated. The remainder of the Bulgarian force broke and fled panic stricken.

## OCCUPATION GIEVGELI IMMINENT

Enemy Forces Within Four Miles of Town Which is Being Bombed—British Forces Retire in Good Order

PARIS, Dec. 13.—Gievgeli in Southern Serbia, close to the Greek border is being bombed by Bulgarian and German artillery. Their forces having pushed to within four miles of the town according to a Havas despatch from Athens filed on Saturday, the despatch being based on advices received from Saloniki. The occupation of Gievgeli by the invaders is deemed imminent 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 plan decided upon by British and French staffs.

### TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF

PARIS, Dec. 12.—General Joffre, who retains the direct command of the armies of the east and north-east, has designated General Edouard De Courrier De Castelneau as Chief of the General Staff.

General Joffre continues General In Command of all the French fronts.

### GREEKS WILL QUIT SALONIKA.

Paris, Dec. 13.—According to information received here from Athens to-day, the Greek Government has agreed to withdraw its troops from Salonika.

### BAVARIAN INFANTRY AT CONSTANTINOPLE

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—A news agency despatch from Rome says that Field Marshal von Mackenzen has arrived at Constantinople with two regiments of Bavarian infantry and several batteries of artillery, according to Athens despatches to-day.

## DEMANDS IMMEDIATE REPARATION

United States Government Sounds Warning Note to Austria-Hungary—Unless Satisfaction Made May Sever Diplomatic Relations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The text of the American Note to Austria-Hungary regarding the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona was made public to-night. A formal demand by the United States for a prompt denunciation of such an illegal and indefensible act and for the punishment of the submarine commander and for reparation by payment of an indemnity for the killing and injuring of innocent American citizens.

These demands follow the statement informing Austria-Hungary that the good relations between the two countries must rest upon the common regard for law and humanity. The Note arraigns the 'shelling and torpedoing of the liner as inhumane, barbarous and wanton slaughter of men, women and children.

In official and diplomatic circles, the communication is regarded as being the most emphatic declaration to come from the United States Government since the beginning of the European War. No attempt is made to conceal the fact that unless the demands are quickly complied with that the diplomatic relations between the two countries will be in grave danger of being severed.

## BULGAR LOSSES TERRIFIC

LONDON, Dec. 13.—A Salonika correspondent of the Times sends the following:—

"Two of the most formidable assaults yet delivered by the Bulgarians were made on Saturday against the British front, north of Lake Doiran, and were repulsed.

The enemy's losses were terrific, his massed battalions being mowed down by our machine guns as with a scythe.

### British Troops Landing Daily At Saloniki

PARIS, Dec. 13.—A Havas Agency from Salonika, dated Sunday, says:—

"An intense action continues along the Entente Allied fronts. Bulgarians are attacking in a dense mass of formation. The Allied retreat continues methodically, but the situation of the British in North Dioxia is noticeably improved, thanks to arrival of reinforcements from Salonika, where fresh British troops are landing daily.

## BULGARS AIDED BY MIST AND ARTILLERY FORCE BRITISH RETIRE

French Withdraw Forces, Destroying all Tunnels and Bridges and Saved all the Stores—The Enemy Began to Increase in Strength and Threaten Strumitza Road—Made Things Hot For First Line

### WEATHER CONDITIONS FAVOUR ENEMY

At Close Range They Opened a Murderous Fire Which Made British Position Untenable That They Retired to Their Second Line—Allies Will Not Withdraw Their Troops From Saloniki

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Reuter's Telegram Co. claims to have received authentic information that the Allies have decided not to withdraw to Salonika. A denial is contained in a despatch to London from Athens that the Greek Government are seeking to negotiate advances from the German Government.

A special correspondent to Reuter's Telegram Co. with the British Headquarters Staff in the Balkans, describes the retreat of the Allies last week under General Sarraill. They had already prepared to evacuate the advanced positions along the Cerna front, and on Saturday Krivolak was abandoned, after establishing the first bridgehead at Demirkapu. The French made a second bridgehead at Grabece, after withdrawing their stores, destroying all tunnels and bridges on the railway.

Meanwhile the Bulgarians and German, in constantly increasing strength, began to bear heavily on the point of junction of the Franco-British lines, especially threatening the Strumitza road, which forms the main artery of our position.

The Germans soon began to make things hot for the first line. Weather conditions favored them and under the cover of a mist, they brought their longer ranged field guns from registering with accuracy, they brought numerous mountain guns into positions impracticable for our less mobile pieces, and they opened a murderous fire at close range.

Exposed to this hot grueling, and threatened to be outflanked owing to the retirement of the French, our positions soon became untenable, so the men of the Irish Division were withdrawn to our second line, prepared a long time in advance. Dur-

ing these engagements the fighting was often at very close quarters, owing to the mist, but the gallant Connaught Rangers, and the Dublin and Munster Fusiliers repeatedly drove the enemy off with the bayonet with heavy losses.

The superiority of numbers of the enemy and his maintain guns however in the long run prevailed and we retired to our second line, the French having in the meanwhile abandoned the bridgehead at Grabel and Hill 516. The importance of the stand at these positions is difficult to exaggerate, because had the Bulgars succeeded in pushing through they would have cut off the retreat of the main body of the French forces as well as of the British, and would probably have inflicted grave reverses.

Since Tuesday the pressure of the Bulgars' offensive has relaxed, and our new positions are very strong.

### China Goes Back To a Monarchy

PEKIN, Dec.—Yuan Shi Kai, president of the Chinese republic, has accepted the throne of China tendered him by the Council of State.

Acting as a parliament, the Council of State to-day canvassed a vote on the question of a change in the form of government in China to a monarchy, and found that 1,993 representatives out of 2,943 qualified to vote on the proposition, were favorable to the change.

The Council of State immediately sent Yuan Shi Kai a petition urging him to accept the throne. He declined at first, but when the petition was forwarded him the second time, he accepted, with the proviso that he would continue to act as president until a convenient time for his coronation.

### CARGO ON FIRE FORCED STEAMER TO RETURN

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The British freighter Tynninghame, sugar laden, put back toward New York to-day soon after she had passed the quarantine ground, fire having broken out on board.

She passed the quarantine ground with smoke pouring out from her after hold number four, and anchored off the Statue of Liberty.

She was bound to Liverpool.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

## DERBY'S RECRUITING SCHEME IS EXTENDED UNTIL WEDNESDAY

Owing to Large Numbers Flocking to Registrating Offices it Has Been Found Necessary to Extend Time Limit—Britain Will Show World That Free Men Are Willing to Defend Their Country

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The enrollment of volunteers under Lord Derby's plan for immediate 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 an extension of time until midnight Sunday, with a possible further extension until midnight on 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 of the preceding three weeks.

The process of enlistment was attended by picturesque and enthusiastic proceedings and bands and orators, both official and voluntary, from military and civil life, have been busy. The keynote of the speeches has been that Britain should show the world that free men are able and willing to defend their country without compulsion.

After enrollment is completed, the War Office will be obliged to segregate those engaged in Government work indispensable to the industry of the country and 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 enrollment.

There is no information at present regarding the number of new recruits, but Trade Union leaders to-night confidently declared that the Derby campaign was a success.

Last census gave the number of men in England, Scotland and Wales between the ages of 18 and 40 as 8,100,000, nearly half of whom were single. The general understanding has been that about three millions entered the army before Lord Derby's recruiting scheme began, and it is believed that between 80 and 90 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 railroad, mining, shipping and farming, whose number cannot be approximately estimated except by officials.

**LADIES, ATTENTION!**

A GIFT TO YOUR GENTLEMAN FRIENDS  
A GREAT BIG XMAS OFFER.

For the next ten days we will give with every purchase of a 1 lb. Tin of V.C. Dandy Mixture Smoking Tobacco a handsome Covered Tobacco Pouch for \$1.50. As our supply of Pouches are limited an early call to our store is advisable.

To be had only at the

**ROYAL CIGAR STORE,**  
Bank Square Water Street.