

BRITISH MILITARY ATTACK AT SOFIA TAKEN OFF GREEK STEAMER BY GERMAN SUBMARINE

MESOPOTAMIA LIKELY TO BE SCENE OF IMPORTANT BATTLE IN NEXT FEW WEEKS

Germans also Preparing for Blow at Allied Line in Flanders and Artois — Teutonic Leaders Hope to Strike in Balkans Before Allies Complete Preparations — Serbian Army Finding Retreat Difficult Owing to Cold.

STRONG ALLIED ATTACK BEGUN AT DARDANELLES

Cologne, Dec. 7, via London, Dec. 8.—The Cologne Gazette's Constantinople correspondent says:

"The Entente Allies have begun a grand offensive at the Dardanelles, perhaps in consequence of Earl Kitchener's visit, but the Turkish authorities are inclined to believe that it is only a bluff.

"Thirty Entente Allied aeroplanes on Saturday attacked Uzunhisar, an important military and railway centre on the line from Constantinople to Adrianople, throwing many bombs, but traffic on the line was maintained."

London, Dec. 7.—Important battles have begun, or are impending, in Mesopotamia, where the German Field Marshal Baron Von Der Goltz, has taken command of the Turkish forces and is about to attack the British at Kut-el-Amara; in southern Serbia, where the Bulgarians have already attacked the Anglo-French positions and have been repulsed; on Gallipoli, where, according to Turkish accounts, the Allies have taken the offensive, and in Belgium and France, where reports from Holland state, the Germans have concentrated strong reinforcements and an immense amount of artillery, with the object of striking a blow at the Allied line in Flanders and Artois.

Except in Serbia the battles have not developed beyond the preliminary stages, so far as is known, the artillery alone of the different armies being active. Along the Vardar-Cerna-Karasu front in Serbia the Bulgarians have already commenced their attack against the Anglo-French, and it is reported that the German army of Gen. Von Gallwitz has been re-organized and re-inforced, and is marching south to take part in the operations.

It is evidently the intention of the Germans to strike hard before the Allies, who continue to land troops at Saloniki, have completed their preparations. It is reported that the Germans have 40,000 men available. There is no indication of the Bulgarian or Anglo-French strength, but one report says that five Allied divisions (nearly 100,000 men) have been landed thus far. The battle therefore will be one of the greatest importance.

Cold Interferes With Serbian Retreat

According to the French all the Bulgarian attacks have been repulsed, but the Germans claim that the French were compelled to give up their positions at the junction of the Vardar and Cerna rivers to avoid being enveloped.

The situation for the Allies is complicated by the attitude of the Greek government. The negotiations at Athens have not yet reached a satisfactory settlement, and although the Greek King has reaffirmed his neutrality and repeated his assurances that Greek troops will never attack the Allies, the situation still causes great anxiety.

The Austrians continue their offensive against the Montenegrins and Serbians, and are following the Serbs into Albania, where the retreat is rendered extremely difficult owing to the cold weather and the bad roads. There are said to be one hundred thousand Serbian troops and twenty thousand refugees in Albania, and it is reported that the Serbians are taking with them forty thousand Austrian prisoners who were captured during previous campaigns.

The position of the Serbians is rendered even more serious by the success of the Austrian cruiser Nova, and destroyers in sinking steamers which had arrived at San Giovanni di Medua with supplies and war material for them.

In view of the probability of Germany asking Great Britain for safe conduct for her attaches, whose recall from the United States has been asked, considerable interest is taken in the action of the German submarine, in removing from a Greek steamer the British attaché, Col. Napier, who was on his way to London from Sofia.

SEES NO DANGER OF GENERAL COLLAPSE OF WORLD FINANCE

French Economist Says Not Even Germany Will be Bankrupt. WILL TAKE DECADE TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.

Increased Taxes and Higher Tariffs, With England Following Lead of Other Nations.

Paris, Dec. 6.—(Correspondence)—The answer of Paul Leroy Beaulieu, the French economist, to the question "Will Europe be plunged into bankruptcy because of the war?" is "No, not even Germany." Concerning the result of the present enormous spending of money by all the nations, and the conditions following the war, he forecasts the end of the war a year hence, and after its end a remarkable industrial activity, with an international commercial rivalry leading to high tariffs in all the nations now at war, including even the United States, he says.

While such a situation has never before presented itself in history, and while, therefore, all opinions must be given with some reserve, I am confident that no fear need be felt for a universal collapse of world finance. The destruction in this war, save possibly in the lives lost, has been exaggerated in the public mind. Not a single nation involved will be irretrievably ruined. The enduring power of accumulated wealth has been underestimated. It will take not more than ten or twelve years for the world to recover from its losses.

"I estimate that the war will have come to a close by next autumn. Then there will set in a period of manufacturing activity, the like of which we have never known. This period has been made necessary by the physical damage done by the diversion toward supplies of factories once engaged in making cloth and what not. During this re-construction period we will work harder than formerly. There will not be the stagnation which paralyzed the southern states after the Civil war.

"Another result of the war will be the increasing taxes by each nation involved, and the raising of tariffs to collect revenues. England will do like the rest, free trade country though she is, and despite her comparatively less war loss. The United States, while it will not have to, will increase her tariffs."

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CONFERENCE OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF GREECE AND ALLIES ARRANGED

COL. FOWLER GOING TO OTTAWA THIS EVENING

No Word Yet Regarding Transfer of 140th to St. John—104th Band Welcomed at Sussex.

Special to The Standard

Sussex, Dec. 7.—The 104th Battalion met the battalion band at the station this afternoon and many townspeople as well joined in welcoming the musicians. The band came from St. John on the Canadian Pacific train. The members expressed themselves as greatly pleased with complimentary remarks made by Mayor Frink and Councilmen Russell and Wilson at the Union Station, St. John, just before the train left.

The battalion went to the Sussex station in marching order, although mud made footing somewhat unsteady. Lieut.-Col. Fowler has received no word as yet regarding the proposed transfer of the men of the 104th Battalion to St. John. He has arranged to leave for Ottawa tomorrow night for the purpose of consulting the Minister of Militia regarding the situation in general.

Thirty new recruits were added to the honor roll today. Very little sickness among the troops here is reported.

MY ACCEPT WITHOUT MORE DISCUSSION

Berlin Informed of Reasons for Asking Withdrawal of Capt. Boy-Ed and Von Papan.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary of State Lansing has communicated to Germany, through Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, the reasons which caused the United States government to request the immediate withdrawal of Captain Karl Boy-Ed and Captain Franz Von Papan, respectively naval and military attaches of the embassy here.

In the communication, which is believed to have reached the Berlin foreign office today, Mr. Lansing is understood to have stated that the naval and military activities of the attaches constituted their principal offenses. It is stated that there was no discussion of facts relating to the reasons for the state department's request, nor any disclosure of the department's sources of information.

Whether Germany expected a discussion of the facts has not been made known. Officials are waiting, with interest, to see whether the Berlin foreign office will be satisfied with the stating of the broad, general reasons. The opinion seemed to prevail that Germany might, with the reasons before it, instruct the ambassador to send the attaches away without further delay. In some quarters, however, it was thought another communication might come from Berlin. Secretary of State Lansing declined to comment on the subject for publication today, and the German embassy was also silent.

Atmosphere Clearing, Greek Premier Declares, But Nothing Can Compel Nation to Abandon Neutral Stand—Situation One for Military Experts, Not Diplomats, to Settle.

Athens, Dec. 6.—An agreement for a conference of Greek military authorities and military representatives of the Entente Powers to examine into the situation respecting the Allied demands upon Greece has been reached and the preliminary steps toward holding the conference have been taken. Premier Skoufopoulos announced today.

"Tell the American people that the government of Greece has only two aims—to safeguard the sovereignty of Greece and not to abandon neutrality no matter for what reason she may be urged to do so, no matter what inducements or pressures are brought to bear," said Premier Skoufopoulos, to the Associated Press correspondent in an interview today.

"I think I may say," continued the premier, "that the air, surcharged for months with misunderstandings, is at least clearing; that the Entente Powers are beginning to understand that while we are immovable on the two heads just stated, we are disposed in every other respect to give material expression to the feeling every Greek has towards France, Great Britain and Russia, dating from Navarino.

Matter for Military Men. "Two points which caused the recent friction are now in the way of amicable settlement. As far back as November 19, I suggested the inappropriateness of non-military diplomats seeking to arrange the details of a situation essentially military and of which they understood little. Therefore I proposed a conference between the military authorities on either side authorized to study the necessities of the situation and report on them, giving the Greek government and the Entente diplomats the benefit of their conclusions, from which a settlement could then be reached.

"Respecting railroads, the Greek government has never been unaware that the personnel was inadequate for the handling of the immense increase in traffic due to the military uses to which the railways now are put, but M. Bourail was unwilling to surrender control of his own property. As Gen. Sarraïl offers to assist in the operation of the railways leaving Greek control unquestioned, the government is only too glad to accept."

"What about hunting down Austro-German submarines in Greek territorial waters?" asked the interviewer. "That touches our sovereignty," replied the premier. "We protest to the world, especially to America, also a neutral, that we cannot sanction violations of our territory. But what can we do? We have only a small navy and a vast coastline. We can only protest. "What we want to avoid, what we shall avoid, is associating Greece with the uncertain outcome of the war. Had we joined the Allies last Spring when we were urged to do so, today we would have to bear the bulk of the cost of the failure of the Gallipoli venture.

"Had we joined at the inception of the recent Austro-German-Bulgarian attack on Serbia, we would now be bearing a large part of the price in blood and devastation following the crushing of the Serbians.

"By following the two principles we stand by as governing Greece's foreign policy, we have saved these two disasters. We should continue to follow them, for in them is our only salvation."

Roumania's Entry Will Depend on Russian Attack on Bulgaria

Sure to Join Allies But Not Before The Entente Powers Can Place Army of Equal Strength to that of Teutonic Forces

Geneva, Dec. 7.—During the past two months there has been a considerable veering of public opinion in Roumania in favor of the neutrality policy of Premier Bratianu, says the correspondent at Bucharest, of the Journal De Geneve. "This has been largely due to the Austro-German invasion of Serbia and to the fear of Roumanians of undergoing the lot of the Belgians and Serbians. A majority of the ruling class sympathize with France and hopes that she will be victorious, many Roumanians conciliating this sentiment with admiration of the strength and force of her resistance to Germany. "A greater number detest Russia and have no confidence in her army. All Roumanians, however, agree in desiring national unity. In a word, the majority of Roumanians think Premier Bratianu has done well to wait, for it is believed the war will be a long one and that the small country has not the strength or means of resistance that the great powers have. "All are convinced that Premier Bratianu will join the Quadruple Entente, but only when he can oppose to the 800,000 Austro-Hungarians, Germans, Bulgarians and Turks an army of equal or superior strength. "Roumania's intervention" will be dependent upon the entry of the Russians into Bulgaria. Italian intervention in the Balkans is regarded with skepticism.

Company says that according to the Greek papers, Col. H. D. Napier, the late British military attaché at Sofia, has been taken off a Greek steamer by a German submarine near Messina. British Member of Parliament a War Prisoner. London, Dec. 7.—A British official report received tonight says that Captain Arthur Stanley Wilson, member of parliament for Yorkshire, has been made a prisoner of war. He was conveying letters from the eastern Mediterranean to London, and was traveling by a Greek steamer which was stopped by an Austrian submarine. It has been ascertained, the report says, that none of the papers taken from him was of any importance.

AMERICAN STEAMER SUNK BY SUBMARINE

Owned by Standard Oil Co. and Sailed from New York for Egypt—Detained for while at Genoa by Italian Government.

Rome, Dec. 7.—The American oil steamer Communpaw has been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean, near Tobruk, Tripoli. No information has been received concerning the crew, or the nationality of the submarine. The steamer Communpaw was recently held by the Italian government at Genoa, but was allowed to sail for her destination on December 2, owing to representations made to the government made by the American embassy at Rome. The Communpaw was owned by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and sailed from New York October 27 for Egypt.

ESCAPING GERMAN PLOTTER CAUGHT BY BRITISH CRUISER

Buenos Aires, Dec. 7.—Word has been received here that a British cruiser has captured the steamer Winnebago. It is also reported that a British cruiser has captured, on the high seas, on board the steamer Vanban, a German officer who, it is alleged, was involved in certain affairs in the United States, from which country he made his escape. The American steamer Winnebago is probably the vessel taken by the British. She left Newport News August 21st last, and arrived at Buenos Aires October 14. Since then the movements of the Winnebago have not been reported.

Dumarkapou Pass, a great gorge in the hills through which runs the Salonika-Uskup railway, twenty miles north of the Greek frontier. Only a narrow pathway was offered the Entente forces, together with a precarious line of communications, and with the Teutonic allies, overrunning the country to the west of the line the need of the retreat of the Entente Allies is obvious.

Report of Allied Retirement from Krivolak Likely True. London, Dec. 8.—The Times says today there should be no surprise if the Italian reports of the retreat of the Entente Allied forces in Serbia from Krivolak and the fortified camp at Kavadar prove correct. The newspaper says the German occupation of Monastir evidently made itself felt on the Vardar, and that the Allies have withdrawn to strong positions in the

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