

FOUR GERMAN DESTROYERS SUNK; ALLIES ADVANCING

SECOND CONTINGENT TO SAIL IN DECEMBER; WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS

Canada Will Keep 40,000 Men Under Arms and Training for Foreign Service—Will Be Sent to Front at Regular Intervals as they May be Required.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Oct. 18.—The following official statement was given out tonight by Sir Robert Borden:

During the past week the Government have continuously had under consideration the organization of a second contingent. The Prime Minister, the Acting Minister of Militia and the Sub-Committee of the Privy Council had a lengthy conference on Saturday with Col. G. Watkin, Chief of the General Staff, and Col. Denison, Adjutant General, respecting the following questions:

1.—The defence of Canada against any probable raid or attack by land or sea.

2.—The training, organization, equipment, and the despatch of further expeditionary forces.

There is no question about the officers and men being available. Many thousands throughout Canada are eager for an opportunity to go to the front. The response to the call of duty throughout the country has been most inspiring. Two considerations have to be taken into account in connection with the despatching of further expeditionary forces: (A)—The provision of rifles, guns, ammunition, and other equipments. (B)—The ability of the British Government to receive further contingents and give them the necessary final training having regard to the enormous force which is being organized and trained in the British Islands.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

All these, and many other matters, were discussed at length, and after the conference the following conclusions were announced by the Prime Minister:

The first concern of the Canadian Government is the defence of our own territory, including our ports and harbors. For this purpose about 5,000 men are now under arms in Canada, and are serving on garrison, or outboat duty from the Atlantic to the Pacific. At important points on both coasts the defences have been strengthened and guns have been mounted. Other coast and harbor defences, the nature of which it is not desirable to publish have also been prepared. Expert military advisers of the Government advise that this force could be very rapidly increased from the active militia at a few hours' notice, and they consider that every reasonable safeguard against successful attack has been provided.

FURTHER CONTINGENTS

To the organization and despatch of further contingents, the following conclusions have been reached:

1. From the present time until the end of the war, or so long as the war office shall deem it advisable, Canada will keep continuously in training and under arms (in addition to the eight thousand men above mentioned) 30,000 men.

2. As soon as arms, guns and equipment can be provided for a force of ten thousand men, that force will be despatched to Great Britain, as the first installment of a second expeditionary force. Thereupon additional men will be enlisted so as to keep the number under training continuously at 30,000. This process will continue from time to time; that is to say, as soon as each force of 10,000 men is armed, equipped and despatched, another force of 10,000 will be enlisted to take its place and to bring the number in training up to 30,000.

3. It is anticipated that the first force of 10,000 men will be despatched in December, and thereafter at regular intervals similar forces will be continuously sent forward as rapidly as they can be armed and equipped.

4.—Including the forces on garrison and outpost duty we shall thus have under arms or in training about 40,000 men in Canada and until the end of the war or until the war office advises that further expeditionary forces are not needed, a steady stream of reinforcements will go forward from our shores to the seat of the war.

5.—If the expected communication from the war office should make any modification in the above arrangement necessary that modification will be announced at a later date.

6.—The Government is informed by its military advisers that it would be impossible to supply arms, guns and equipment on a larger scale than that laid down in these proposals.

7.—Pending advice from the war office as to the composition of the second contingent, which have not yet been received, infantry to the number of 16,000 or 20,000 will be immediately enlisted and the organization and training of infantry units will be proceeded with throughout the Dominion from Halifax to Victoria.

8.—As soon as the expected instructions arrive from the war office immediate arrangements will be made for enlisting such cavalry, artillery, engineers and administrative units as the war office may advise.

9.—The organization of these units and the forces contemplated by these proposals will be under the directions of officers commanding divisions and military districts and will be carried out by them.

FIRST DEATH REPORTED AMONG THE CANADIANS AT SALISBURY PLAINS

London, Oct. 18 (Gazette Cable).—The first death among the Canadian expeditionary force occurred late Saturday night under mysterious circumstances. The body of a soldier in khaki from the West Down South Camp was found on the road early Sunday morning, and inquiry so far has failed to

identify him. The body was taken from Salisbury, where the police station has no telephonic communication, and the county coroner sends word that he has not obtained the name of the dead man. He will hold an inquest on Monday.

A PRIZE ARRIVES IN HALIFAX.

Halifax, Oct. 18.—Converted cruiser Caronia arrived in port this afternoon with the oil tanker Brindilla, flying the American flag, as a prize of war. The Brindilla was formerly the German steamer Washington.

SCORE IN VESSELS LOST FAVORS BRITISH FLEET; REJOICING IN ENGLAND

London, Oct. 17, 7.10 p. m.—The Secretary of the British Admiralty announces that the British light cruiser Undaunted, accompanied by torpedo boat destroyers Lance, Lennox, Legion and Loyal, engaged four German torpedo boat destroyers off the Dutch coast this afternoon. All of the German destroyers were sunk.

The British cruiser Undaunted, a vessel of 3,800 tons, was commanded, according to the latest British navy list, by Lt. Commander Geo. Seymour. She carries two 6-inch and six 4-inch guns. The destroyers that accompanied the cruiser, have each an armament of three 4-inch guns and an equipment of four 21-inch torpedo tubes in pairs. The destroyers were each 250 feet in length, had a speed of 29 knots and carried a crew of 100 men.

It is understood that the destroyers attacked the cruiser Undaunted while the latter was on patrol and all were sunk following a very brief engagement.

The Undaunted is one of the three stack light cruiser fleet of the Aurora class to which has been assigned the work of patrolling the German coast while the main British battle fleet remains in home waters. She has been searching for the fleet of destroyers which have been operating from the estuary of the River Ems, one of which was recently sunk by a British submarine.

The British boats escaped without a mark. Harwich, England, via London, Oct. 18, 11.35 a. m.—The news of the British cruiser Undaunted's victory was received with great rejoicing here. She did not leave this port until Saturday morning and six o'clock the same evening came the news that four German destroyers had been sunk. It is understood here that the engagement occurred near the mouth of the Scheldt.

London, Oct. 18, 12.21 a. m.—The Admiralty announces that the British loss in the engagement Saturday off the Dutch coast, in which four German torpedo boat destroyers were sunk, was one officer and four men wounded. The damage to the British destroyers was slight.

The announcement adds: "There are thirty-one German survivors, prisoners of war."

The sinking of the four warships Saturday makes six torpedo boat destroyers that have been sent to the bottom of the sea by British gunfire since the beginning of the war, and seven when the torpedo boat destroyers, which was sunk by the submarine E-9 is counted. In this number, and without counting the converted merchantmen such as the Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse and the Cap Trafalgar, the score now favors the Allies, they having sunk six German and one Austrian cruiser and seven German torpedo boat destroyers, while there have been unconfirmed reports of the sinking of several Austrian destroyers in the Adriatic Sea.

The Germans have sunk eight British and one Russian cruiser, while Australia has lost a submarine by accident. The Russians also claim to have sunk two German submarines, but this the Germans deny.

Up to this afternoon Berlin had not heard officially of the sinking of the British cruiser Hawke, which indicates that the submarine which accomplished it has not yet returned to port. The cruiser Undaunted was commanded by Captain Cecil H. Fox, who commanded the cruiser Amphion which, after sinking the German armed cruiser Koenigin Luise, was itself destroyed by a German mine on August 6.

GERMANS DRIVEN BACK FOR THIRTY MILES BY ALLIES

British and French Forces in Northern France and Belgium Make Splendid Gains—Enemy Driven from Channel Ports—Sir John French in Official Statements Tells of Terrific Fighting on Aisne and of Great Bravery of British Soldiers.

The progress of the Allies in Northern France and Belgium is indicated by the statement issued by the British official press bureau that in the northern area, the Germans have been driven back more than thirty miles. This is in part confirmed by an Amsterdam despatch which says that the Germans have evacuated Courtrai, which is a very considerable distance to the northeast of Lille.

This advance, however, has reference only to what was formerly known as the French left wing. This wing now extends to the North Sea, and it is here that British and French reinforcements have been placed in the line to meet the heavy reinforcements which have come to the German right wing—the army which is trying to force its way down the coast to the French channel ports.

London, Oct. 18.—Two long reports Gough and Chetwode, with the Third and Fifth Cavalry Brigades, covered the operations of the British army from August 28 to October 5, were issued tonight.

The first report dated, Sept. 17, calls special attention to the fact that "from Sunday, August 23, up to the present date, from Mons back almost to the Seine and from the Seine to the Aisne, the army, under my command has been ceaselessly engaged, without one single day's halt, or rest of any kind."

Further along Field Marshal French says:

"In spite of very determined resistance on the part of the enemy, who is holding in strength and with great tenacity a position peculiarly favorable to defence. The battle, which commenced on the evening of the 12th instant (September), has so far forced the enemy back from his first position, secured passage of the river and inflicted great loss upon him, including the capture of over 2,000 prisoners and several guns."

The despatches give details of the retreat on August 28 and 29. General

to effect a further short retirement towards the line between Compiègne and Soissons, promising him, however, to do my utmost to keep always within a day's march of him."

The Germans were threatening the British line of communication, and continues the report:

"While closely adhering to his strategic conception to draw the enemy on all points until a favorable situation was created from which to assume the offensive, Gen. Joffre found it necessary from day to day to modify the methods by which he sought to attain this object, owing to the development of the enemy's plans and changes in the general situation."

On September 5, Gen. Joffre decided to take the offensive, as he considered conditions very favorable to success. Field Marshal French believes that about noon on the sixth the enemy being made against the flank of his columns moving south and east, and began the great retreat which opened the battle.

This battle, so far as the Sixth French Army, the British Army and the Fifth and Ninth French Armies were concerned, was concluded on the evening of September 10, when the Germans had been driven to the Soissons-Rheims line, with the loss of thousands of prisoners, many guns and enormous masses of transport.

The change in the German plans from a direct advance on Paris appears to have been made on September 3. Describing the various stages of the advance against the Germans, Field Marshal French praises the cavalry, especially Gen. De Lisle's brigade with the Ninth Lancers and Eighteenth Hussars.

On the 8th, both the first and second army corps made large captures

IMPORTANT SUCCESSSES FOR ALLIES IN BATTLES AT DUNKIRK AND CALAIS

Paris Official Statement Says French Have Re-occupied Armentieres on Belgium Frontier Northwest of Lille—Germans May Make Another Attempt on Calais.

London, Oct. 18 (9.45 p.m.)—Two important successes in the battle of Dunkirk and Calais, for the possession of which the Germans are striving, are credited to the allies in the official communication issued in Paris this afternoon.

The French are said to have re-occupied Armentieres, an important railway junction on the Belgian frontier northwest of Lille, and to have repulsed an attempt of the Germans to cross the River Yser, which flows through that little corner of West Flanders, which is all of Belgium that remains in German hands. This would mean a check to the German attempt to reach Dunkirk by the coast route. The French also are said to have pushed back still farther the German army, which is advancing along the Belgian frontier to the coast.

The battle which culminated in Armentieres again coming under French influence lasted for a week, during which the fighting was hard and continuous. The town was seized by the Germans last week owing to its importance as a railway centre, lines diverging from it in all directions. Besides, it is on the road to Lille, which the Germans still hold, despite reports to the contrary. The battle opened with cavalry fighting, which gradually developed into a general battle, which indicates that the French are advancing in force toward Lille.

ALLIES ADVANCING.

The Allies also have made an advance north of the La Basse Canal, between that line and Arras, and at certain points between Arras and the Oise. This latter is a rather long front but the claims in the French official communication are taken here to mean that the German movement westward has been checked. The Germans, however, are bringing up reinforcements, seemingly determined to resume the offensive, either toward Calais or at some other point of the long front.

Berlin says it is not known where these new troops are going, but the Allies probably soon will learn their destination, as their aviators are said to be busy everywhere over the German lines. It is thought here, however, that it probably will be some days before the Germans make their presence felt.

In the centre and in the Vosges the situation is stationary. This is not taken here to mean that no fighting is taking place, and it is considered likely that the battle on the Alsace frontier, which has been going on for some days, has yet to reach its end.

The Germans have established civil administrations in the greater part of Belgium and are said to have demanded war levies from Ostend and Blankenberge—Ostend being called upon to pay \$1,000,000, and Blankenberge to supply certain provisions for man and beast.

The arrival in London of thousands of Belgian refugees has stirred up the populations in the poorer districts of the city against the Germans. Thousands of Germans are still carrying on business, or continuing in their places of employment, not only in London but throughout the country, and the agitation for the discharge of those employed in hotels, barber shops and other places is growing in intensity.

CONTRADICTION REPORTS FROM EAST

Again the Russians and the Austrians flatly contradict one another as to the progress of events in the east. The Austrians claim that the operations are progressing favorably for them, while an official report from Petrograd received tonight says that attempts by the Austrians to cross the River San failed, and that in the fighting south of Przemysl, which took the form of a bayonet charge, they captured fifteen Austrian officers and 1,000 men.

It would appear from reports of correspondents at Petrograd that the Germans made repeated attempts to cross the Vistula at Josefow, but were driven back with heavy casualties. These correspondents say this fighting was part of the general attack on the Russian positions on the Vistula, and that they proved a failure.

The British and French fleets, and the Montenegrin army are carrying on an attack on Cattaro, the fortified seaport of Austria in Dalmatia, the first sortie from which the Montenegrins claim to have repulsed.

Through their sphere of operations Serbian reports say the Serbians are sweeping everything before them. It is not believed here, however, that very serious fighting has been taking place there recently, as the weather and the conditions of the roads must have been against it.

and took some guns. On the 9th, after forcing the passage of the Marais they inflicted a heavy loss in killed and wounded on the Germans, while the second division took some hundreds of prisoners and a battery of eight machine guns, seven machine guns, and quantities of transport fell into British hands, and the enemy left many dead on the field. In conclusion, the report says:

"Although I deeply regret to have to report heavy losses in killed and wounded throughout these operations, I do not think they have been excessive, in view of the magnitude of the great fight, and the demoralization and loss in killed and wounded which are known to have been caused the enemy, by the vigor and severity of our pursuit."

Second Report.

London, Oct. 18, 8.30 p. m.—Field Marshal French's second report, dated Oct. 8, concerns the operations of the British forces since the evening of Sept. 10.

"Early in the morning of the 11th," says the report, "three corps crossed the Oureq, further pursuit of the enemy being practically unopposed—the cavalry reaching the line of the Aisne, two brigades south of Soissons and

three brigades at Couvrelles and Cersent on the afternoon of Sept. 12.

"From the opposition encountered by the Sixth French Army to the west of Soissons and two of our army corps south of Missy, and certain other indications along the line, I formed the opinion that the enemy had, for the moment, at any rate arrested his retreat and was preparing to contest the passage of the Aisne with some vigor south of Soissons, where the Germans were holding Mont De Paris against attack. With the assistance of artillery the Third Corps of the French drove them back across the river at Soissons, where they destroyed the bridges. However, heavy artillery fire showed that the Sixth French Army was meeting with heavy opposition all along the line.

"On this day the cavalry under Gen. Allenby reached the neighborhood of Braine, and did good work in clearing the town and the high ground beyond it of strong hostile detachments. The Queen's Bays are particularly mentioned by the General as having assisted greatly in the success of this operation. They were well supported by the Third Division, which on this night camped at Brenelle, south of the river.

"The Fifth Division approached Missy, but were unable to make headway.

Continued on page two.