

ALLIES HAVE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN ALL THE AREAS OF CONFLICT; NAVAL FIGHT A BRITISH WIN

Another German Battleship Was Hit and Badly Damaged In Course of Saturday's Fighting

As In Jutland Battle Germans Were Badly Trimmed in the Latest Attempt to Break Jellicoe's Lines—British Lost Two Small Ships While at Least Three Germans Were Sunk or Disabled.

London, Aug. 23, 8.20 p. m.—The German battleship Westfalen was hit and slightly damaged on Saturday by a British torpedo, it was announced in a semi-official telegram from Berlin today, according to Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent. The Westfalen, however, it is declared, continued capable of manoeuvring and will shortly be repaired. A second torpedo launched against the Westfalen missed the battleship, the message asserts.

A British official announcement yesterday told of a torpedo attack by British submarine E-23 upon a German battleship of the Nassau class in the North Sea. The submarine commander reported that while the ship was being escorted back to port in a damaged condition he attacked again and struck her with a second torpedo and believed she was sunk.

The Westfalen is one of the Nassau class of battleships, displacing 18,502 tons. She was at first reported sunk in the Jutland naval engagement last May but afterwards was declared by the German admiralty to be safe in a home port.

London, Aug. 23.—The admission by the Germans that the battleship Westfalen, which belongs to the Nassau class, was damaged by a British torpedo in the recent fighting in the North Sea has gratified the British public, as it is proof that the British were not left at such a disadvantage in the most recent naval fighting as appeared from first reports.

The first account of the clash depicted Great Britain with the loss of the two light cruisers Falmouth and Nottingham, as against the destruction of one German submarine and the damaging of another. The fact that Germany withheld the news of some of her losses in her first official account of the Jutland battle is used by the newspapers as an argument to discount the statements of Berlin. The denial of the British admiralty of the German claims is accepted without reservation. The account now stands, as figured on the British side, the loss of the Nottingham and Falmouth, whose crews, however, were nearly all saved, against the certain loss to the Germans of a big battleship damaged and, according to the belief of the commander of the attacking submarine, possibly sunk; one submarine sunk and another damaged.

There is great rejoicing here over the exploit of Commander Turner, of the E-23. His successful attack in a fight in the open sea is taken as disproving the contentions of those who questioned the utility of the submarine in such warfare.

GERMAN STORY OF NAVAL BATTLE.

Berlin, via London, Aug. 23.—The claim that a British battleship was damaged by a German submarine in the recent fighting in the North Sea is repeated with considerable detail in an official statement, issued today by the admiralty. The statement says:

"Regarding the British denial of the German official report that a British battleship was damaged by one of our submarines, the following details are now published, based on submarine reports:

"On August 19, in the course of the evening, a submarine met a portion of the British fleet composed of battleships and battle cruisers, surrounded by a greater number of small cruisers and destroyers. The submarine, succeeded in firing a shot at the battleship. The submarine, when firing, was half submerged, and three officers were standing on the conning tower.

"After the torpedo hit, a column of fire which was about twenty metres wide and forty metres high arose from the aft funnel of the battleship, in which the funnel was recognizable in a white hot condition. The column of fire was visible for about a minute. Simultaneously there was a strong outburst of steam from a boiler. After the fire disappeared only the body of the vessel, without funnels or masts, was visible, while the full silhouettes of the neighboring vessels were distinguishable.

"The commander of the submarine had the impression that, apart from heavy damage to the boilers, the torpedo had caused a great conflagration of oil. These operations were observed by all of the officers, so that the English battleship was at least heavily damaged by the attack of the German submarine."

GERMAN YARN DENIED.

London, Aug. 23.—The official statement from Berlin, reiterating the claim that a British battleship was struck by a torpedo in the recent North Sea fighting, was met with an emphatic denial from the British admiralty. The secretary of the admiralty issued the following statement:

"There is not a particle of truth in this fantastic story. No ship was struck, except the Nottingham and the Falmouth, whose loss has already been officially announced."

FOREST FIRES RAGING IN QUEBEC THREATEN VILLAGES ON SAGUENAY

Quebec, Aug. 23.—Fears that a number of villages on the Saguenay between St. Alphonse and Chicoutimi will be wiped out by fire in the forests that have been raging for over two weeks, are entertained, where the whole forest region is a huge sea of flames. Smoke from these forests is so dense that navigation is hampered on the river as far up as Quebec.

Down the Saguenay the situation is still worse. No boats of the Canada Steamship lines dare go further up the Saguenay than St. Alphonse, and passengers who are bound for towns above that point either go by rail or by horse from St. Alphonse. All telephone wires are reported to be down in the vicinity.

NEW ONTARIO IN SIMILAR FLIGHT.

North Bay, Ont., Aug. 23.—The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway officials report this morning that bad brush fires are still raging around New Liskeard. In Hudson Township it is reported that twenty farmers were burned out, with a total loss of buildings and stock, but up to the present no lives have been reported lost in that section.

HUNS JUMP FROM TRAIN AND ESCAPE

Four German Prisoners Make Sensational Getaway From Guards at Amherst.

Special to The Standard.

Amherst, N. B., August 23.—Four German prisoners made a sensational escape from custody at an early hour today, while being conveyed by rail on the scene of their daily labor at the Experimental Farm, Napan.

One hundred soldiers from the internment camp have been out all day searching the fields and forests of this section of the country, but at a late hour this evening had no success in capturing the escaped men.

Every morning the prisoners, or at least a certain force of them, are taken to work at the government farm. They are placed in a box car, specially constructed, with guards in other cars at the front and rear. The same procedure was followed, but unfortunately, as your correspondent understands it, one of the Germans had secured a spike around the grounds and fashioned the same into a bit.

A long-bladed jack-knife was converted into a saw and with the aid of these instruments they made a hole through the side door of the car which is covered with heavy steel wire, slipped their hand through and unfastened the bolt which held the door.

Then while the train was in motion made a successful leap for freedom. The location of the four is not a matter of time as every station along the line together with the police have been given notification of their escape together with a complete description.

OPPOSITION VICTIMS NOT YET IN SIGHT

"Caucus" at Hartland Yesterday Did Not Agree on Candidates—McCain and Upham Both "Shy."

Hartland, N. B., Aug. 23.—About twenty members of the opposition party gathered at Exchange Hotel here today as a caucus to lay plans for the coming campaign and to select candidates to put in nomination on September 14th to oppose those of the local party. The names of Andrew McCain of East Florenceville and Geo. Upham, ex-M. P. F., of Woodstock, were strongly favored, but these men had strong objections and the afternoon was spent without having made a selection. E. S. Carter and F. B. Carvell were kept busy during the day endeavoring to secure smooth sailing, but an evening session was necessary to get matters straightened out. C. L. Smith of Woodstock played strong for a nomination.

The caucus was to have been held earlier in the week, but it is said Mr. McCain put up such a vigorous kick against nomination that a postponement was made in order to find more willing material. At 9 o'clock the caucus broke up but those present would not give any information as to the selection of candidates. It was decided, however, to hold a convention in Hartland next Wednesday when a formal announcement will be made.

NAME OF BERLIN, ONTARIO, TO BE CHANGED TO KITCHENER.

Toronto, Aug. 23.—An order-in-council was passed today changing the name of Berlin, Ont., to Kitchener. The proclamation will be issued September 1.

BRITISH SILENCE GERMAN GUNS AT THREE POINTS ON WEST FRONT; MORE SUCCESS

Two Hundred Yards of Trenches Taken in Region of Thiéval—British and German Aviators in Spirited Battle Which British Won, Disabling Enemy Machines.

London, August 23.—A further advance by the British in the region of Thiéval is recorded in the British official communication, issued this evening, which says that 200 yards of a German trench has been captured there. The silence of German artillery at three different points also is told of.

The statement says: "South of Thiéval (in the Somme region) we gained a further 200 yards of a German trench, which has strengthened our line and improved our position.

"The enemy's artillery, which had been showing much activity, was silenced in three different areas by the counter-battery work of our heavy guns, which appeared to be very effective.

SPIRITED AIR FIGHTING

"When the weather cleared yesterday evening enemy aircraft, which had displayed unwonted enterprise, were engaged in large numbers with most satisfactory results. The fighting was continuous until dusk. At least four hostile machines were destroyed, and many others were damaged or driven down and apparently out of control. Others were pursued to their aerodromes. We suffered no casualties.

"Despite the continual fighting, a reconnaissance was completed successfully, and bombing raids were carried out against sundry points of importance."

FRENCH TAKE MANY PRISONERS.

Paris, August 23, via London, August 24.—The official communication issued by the war office this evening says:

"North and south of the Somme artillery fighting continued all day being particularly severe in the sectors of Belloy and Estrees.

"On the right bank of the Meuse an attack, brilliantly conducted, by our troops against German positions between Fleury and the Thiaumont Wood resulted in an appreciable advance for us. We also took 200 prisoners.

"Adjutant Dorns brought down his sixth aeroplane, which fell in the neighborhood of Marchépot, northwest of Chaumes. Another enemy aeroplane was felled near Roze."

LONDON SEES LITTLE CHANGE IN THE MAIN THEATRES OF WAR

London, August 23.—With no change of importance in the main theatres of the war, interest remains centered on the new allied offensive on the Saloniki front. The latest dispatches, however, from the war capitals throw little light on the situation, and the Allied plans and objectives remain somewhat obscure.

London reports that the Bulgarians have advanced along the Struma Valley, and have entrenched themselves at various points. Berlin also reports further advances for the Bulgarians on the right wing, where they are facing the Serbians. Apparently, however, no action of first importance has as yet developed at any point in this front.

Interest in the attitude of the Greeks has been heightened by press despatches telling of the determination of the Greek commander at Seres to resist the Bulgarians, and of volunteers being organized for his assistance by the Venizelos leaders at Saloniki. There has been no further development in the Roumanian situation. The report from Berlin maintains that Roumania has not yet reached a decision.

On the western front the French are apparently marking time while the British push their operations against Thiéval and Guillemont.

London reports fresh tightening of the ring around Thiéval in the capture of 200 yards of German trenches south of the town. Bitter fighting is going on in this section, the Germans counter-attacking with great violence. In these counter-attacks they succeeded in entering some of the British trenches but, according to London, they were immediately evicted.

The fierce struggle around Fleury in the Verdun sector, continues with unabated violence. The French claim "an appreciable advance" between Fleury and Thiaumont, and the capture of 200 prisoners.

Conflicting claims are made by Berlin and Petrograd in regard to the fighting on the eastern front. Both sides report the capture of positions near Jablitz Pass, where a violent struggle has been in progress for several days on the crest of the Carpathians. Berlin also claims the sanguinary repulse of Russian attempts to cross the Stokhod, and apparently fighting of an extremely desperate character is going on in the district.

Serbs Make Another Successful Advance In Saloniki Campaign

Drove Bulgarians from 150 Yards of Trenches Near Kaimakleron—Enemy Preparing to Entrench on Line Occupied in Greek Territory—Situation in Macedonia.

London, August 23.—A successful operation by Serbian troops in the Morichovo sector, about sixty miles northwest of Saloniki, is reported in an Exchange Telegraph telegram from Athens. The Serbians captured 150 yards of Bulgarian trenches near Kaimakaliam.

London, August 23 (5.30 p. m.)—The Bulgarian troops which advanced in Northeastern Greece recently, seizing positions in the valley of the Struma river, are entrenching on this line.

No heavy fighting is under way on the Macedonian front at present, so far as is indicated by the official statement of today concerning this theatre of war. The announcement follows:

"On the Dolran front (in the centre) about two battalions of the enemy were seen yesterday in the neighborhood of Dautli.

"Their advance troops were driven in by us.

"On the Struma front the enemy is entrenching on the line Yenikent Kukuluk-Bishan-Nevotie-Chavdar. An attack on French troops was repulsed.

"Serbian forces are now holding a line in the neighborhood of Lake Ostrove and Posar."

The new Bulgarian entrenched line roughly parallels the Struma. Apparently the Bulgarians have sent forces of considerable size to occupy this natural defensive line against attempts of the Allies to invade their territory from Greece, or to flank the old battle line by a thrust northeast from Saloniki.

Berlin Claims Success.

Berlin, August 23, via London.—Further progress for the troops of the Central Powers in driving back Entente forces near the western end of the fighting line in Macedonia is announced today by the war office, as it is also the repulse of Serbian attempts to advance in the vicinity of Moglena. The statement regarding operations in the Balkans is as follows:

"The clearing of the highlands west of Ostrove Lake (east of Florina in Northern Greece), has made good progress.

"Repeated Serbian attacks in the Moglena region have been repulsed."

WHAT NEWFOUNDLAND HAS DONE IN CAUSE OF EMPIRE

Hon. P. T. McGrath Tells How "Ye Ancient Colony" Firmly Cheerfully Poured Out Her Men and Money in World War.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Aug. 23.—Hon. P. T. McGrath, president of the legislative council of Newfoundland, and known all over the continent as a writer is in Ottawa today on an investigation of soldiers' pension and employment plans. He tells a graphic story of what the oldest colony has done in the war.

"Newfoundland was severely hit in this last big advance in France," he told the Free Press. "One of our corps was practically put out of business. Out of 850 men who went into a charge only two officers and 68 men came out unhurt. Of course, their bravery was applauded. We took that for granted. I don't think any regiment, not even the famous Princess Pats, suffered like that."

A POLITICAL CRISIS NEAR IN DENMARK HE SAYS THAT WORLD WAR IS NEAR FINISH

Premier Says It is Certain That Elections Must Be Held as Coalition Ministry is Impossible.

Copenhagen, Aug. 23, via London.—The negotiations looking to the formation of a coalition cabinet failed definitely this afternoon because the left and Conservative parties could not accept the demands put forward by the Radicals and Socialists.

The Landsting, or Upper House, of the Danish parliament, will take up the West Indies treaty tomorrow, and is expected to reject it. This probably will postpone the matter of the sale until autumn.

The question of the sale of the islands played a negligible part throughout the political crisis just ended, and can be taken up afresh without prejudice by the new parliament, to be chosen in the general elections, which are expected to take place soon.

Premier Zahle announced tonight that the conferences between members of the various parties and of the

Mr. McGrath says Newfoundland's war expenditure so far has been about two million dollars or about \$5 a head. Three thousand soldiers have been sent overseas or are in training, as well as 2,000 sailors. "We had men with Admiral Craddock when he went down, we had men with Admiral Sturdee and at least one of our men was in the Jutland battle. Our sailors are everywhere and are doing good work on the trawlers," he said. "We started with the idea of contributing 500 men only, but now we're away beyond that. We didn't have a trained man on the island. None of our people had ever heard a shot fired in anger. One hundred policemen were the only approach we had to a military force. Why, we didn't have rifles, so I guess we haven't done so badly."

Austrian Paper Quotes U. S. Ambassador as to Duration of Struggle.

London, August 23.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent forwards a despatch received from Vienna, outlining an interview purported to have been given the Vienna Neue Freie Presse by Frederick Courland Penfield, the American ambassador to Austria-Hungary. The ambassador is quoted as having said he was convinced that Austria-Hungary would survive the test of the war without loss of territory.

Mr. Penfield is declared to have added that the battles were being waged with such intensity that the combatants would be compelled, before long, to pause for breath, and that this interruption in the fighting would be employed by favorably-inclined factors, which were growing stronger in all countries, to discover a means for bringing about peace.

cabinet had demonstrated that general elections were unavoidable, and that a coalition ministry was impossible.