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Germans To Strike In Mesopotamia; Queries About British Disasters

Von der Goltz Placed in Command of Turks—English Feeling That Those Responsible For Reverses Should Give Way to Others

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 7—The Germans are preparing on a large scale for operations in Mesopotamia under Field Marshal Baron Kolmar Von Goltz, who has just been appointed commander of the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia according to private information received by the Journal De Geneve.

Although the Germans speak ostentensibly of Egypt, says the despatch, it is not impossible that they may make their principal efforts this winter from Bagdad towards the Persian Gulf.

ENGLISH FEELING OVER DISASTER

New York, Dec. 7—A London cable to the Herald says:

Responsibility for the repulse in Messopotamia where the British forces, overwhelmingly outnumbered, were driven back by the Turks a hundred miles from Bagdad, the disaster at Loos, where the British, on the edge of a great victory were checked because the reserves were not ready; the tragedy of Sulva Bay, where the Anzacs were mowed down because the gallant landing parties, it is alleged, were not covered by the protecting fire of the warships; and the matter of lack of troops in the Balkans, where the Serbs have been crushed by the enemy, will be the subjects of questions in parliament this week.

The British press and public and the military experts are still unshakeably convinced that the allies will win the war, but there is a feeling and it is growing, that those responsible for the British disasters in the war on land, should be "scrapped" in order to make way for those who have shown initiative and won.

That there is something radically wrong with the organization which has permitted blunders to be piled up "like Pelion on Ossa" is the opinion of nine out of ten Englishmen, and while there is a firm belief that the organization of the supreme general staff which is meeting in Paris, made up of soldiers who have borne the brunt of the fighting, will prevent a recurrence of the blunders, there is a feeling that the men responsible for them, no matter how high, should be forced to make way for others who have been tried on the battle fronts and not found wanting.

But No Peace Talk

But while this feeling is dominant, and there is small wonder it would be—there is not the slightest evidence that Britain or her allies think of making peace until Germany is thoroughly beaten. I know personally that England is full of officers and soldiers eager to fight, that hundreds of thousands of trained men are held at the bases, where they are "eating their heads off" and yet General Townsend has been compelled to retire before an overwhelming force of Turks and General Sarrail and Mahon are hampered by a lack of reinforcements in Serbia.

ENEMY FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES

Ferocious Bulgars in Clash With Hungarians and Are Held in Check

London, Dec. 7.—The Times' Athens correspondent telegraphs:

"A serious clash between Hungarian and Bulgarian troops occurred at Nish, following Austro-German orders for the protection of the civil population against the Bulgarian atrocities.

"The patrolling of the city was entrusted to a Hungarian cavalry regiment composed principally of men with race affiliations with the Serbians. The Bulgarians, unable to restrain their natural ferocity, disregarded the orders and began to attack women. This led to hand-to-hand fighting with serious loss of life.

"The Hungarians maintained the upper hand."

Regiment Mutinies?

London, Dec. 7—An unconfirmed report of the mutiny of a Bulgarian infantry regiment, received in Amsterdam from Frankfort, was forwarded today by the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company. This report is to the effect that the regiment was ordered to proceed to the Gallipoli Peninsula to fight with the Turks and that when it refused to obey the command, 300 of the mutineers were shot.

SPIRITED CANNONADING IN CHAMPAGNE DISTRICT

Paris, Dec. 7.—The communication of this afternoon from the war office follows: "There were no important developments last night, with the exception of rather spirited cannonading in the Champagne and a local engagement near one of our advanced positions to the south of Saint Souplet."

Good Word for Recruiting In New Brunswick

Ottawa, Dec. 7.—Descendants of the Acadian race immortalized by Longfellow's "Evangeline," are to raise a regiment for overseas service. The militia department has been advised of steps being taken by New Brunswick Acadians to raise 1,000 men from Restigouche, Kent, Northumberland, Madawaska and other French centres.

Recruiting in New Brunswick compares most favorably with that of any other province of the dominion.

OFFICERS OF THE 115TH BATTALION

Sketches of Col. Wedderburn and Three Others Whose Appointments Are Confirmed

The appointment of the following officers to the 115th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., has been provisionally confirmed as follows:

Officer commanding, Lieut.-Colonel Frederick Vernon Wedderburn:—Born at St. John, N. B., son of Hon. William Wedderburn, of St. John, grandfather born in Aberdeen, Scotland. Mother, Jeanne Vaughan of St. John, of U. H. Loyalist descent. Grand-uncle on father's side, General Sir Frederic Love, was wounded at Coronna with Sir John Moore. Uncle on mother's side served with 13th Massachusetts Regiment, American Civil War. Educated at St. John public schools, Dr. G. R. Parkin's Collegiate School, Fredericton, and University of New York. Obtained first class Grade A certificate, Royal School of Cavalry, Quebec, and long course certificate Royal Military College, Kingston, taking honor marks in every subject. Gazetted as lieutenant to the composite battalion raised for service in the north west in 1885. Volunteered for service with the 8th Hussars in Egyptian campaigns, 1884 and 1896. Volunteered for service in South Africa, 1899-1902. Commanded royal escort to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, in St. John, 1901, and has held numerous staff appointments. Volunteered for active service present war, August 3, 1914; appointed to command 115th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F., November 14, 1915.

Captain and Adjutant, Aloys Reginald Sprenger:—Born at Bareilly, North West Provinces, India. His father was born at Government House, Calcutta, and served for thirty years in the public works department, India, and is now drawing his pension. Grandfather on father's side was an army doctor in the British East India Company, was seconded for civil employment under the Indian government. On mother's side, one uncle, Colonel W. E. Hilliard, was quarter master general, India. Grandfather on mother's side, Captain J. H. Hillard, died in massacre by mutineers in the Indian Mutiny at Hansi. At the time of the mutiny of the ten officers in the 23rd, Hurrianah Light Infantry, eight officers belonged to Captain Sprenger's family. The present 4th Rajput was raised by great grandfather and to this day bears the name Hilliard-Ki-Paltan, which means the Hilliard Regiment.

Educated in England and Switzerland and graduated from Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Gazetted August 4, 1897. Served in India, including active service on the northwest frontier, also took part in the China expeditionary force under the intelligence department. For this was awarded the China medal 1900-01. Organized and trained a company of field engineers all last summer—total number enrolled seventy-eight; of these twenty have enlisted for overseas service.

Overseas service—Captain and paymaster, Frederick Watters Fraser—Born at Saint John, N.B., son of James McGregor Fraser who was born at West River, Pictou county, N.S. Grandfather on father's side born in Inverness, Scotland. Mother born at Maitland, Hants county, N.S., and grandparents on mother's side born in Scotland. Educated in public schools, Saint John, entered business as bookkeeper with T. B. Barker & Sons. Gazetted lieutenant 62nd regiment Nov. 30, 1914; qualified as lieutenant, March 15, 1915. Appointed paymaster with honorary rank of captain 115th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., Nov. 26, 1915.

Lieutenant and Quartermaster Charles Fenson Sanford was born at Weston, Kings Co., N. S., son of Chas. E. Sanford, and who served during the Fenian Raid, and is of English descent. Mother Alice Skinner, was of Scottish ancestry. Educated at Windsor Academy and St. John grammar school. Appointed quartermaster 61nd Regiment St. John Fusiliers, December, 1914; holds certificate of qualification as lieutenant in infantry. Appointed quartermaster 115th Overseas Battalion C.E.F., November 26, 1915.

AUSTRIAN SAYS HE IS MERELY CHEMISTRY STUDENT

New York, Dec. 7.—Anton F. Mente, a young Austrian in whose rooms explosives and chlorine gas were found yesterday by the police, asserted today that he was merely a student of chemistry and had no criminal intent in his experiments.

He denied that he had received money from any foreign government. All his chemicals and apparatus, he said, were purchased with his own money. As to a code found in his room, he insisted that he made it for his own use.

SPAIN MUST HAVE ANOTHER NEW CABINET

Madrid, Dec. 7—King Alfonso has accepted the resignation of the ministry. He will confer with the ex-premiers, the presidents of the chamber and senate, and political leaders as to the formation of a new cabinet.

Maple Leaf Flour Mills Destroyed

Loss of $300,000 to $400,000 in Saint Catherine's Fire--Talk of Spies But No Proof

St. Catharines, Ont., Dec. 7—Between $300,000 and $400,000 worth of property was wiped out here this morning, when fire destroyed the Maple Leaf Milling Company's flour mills. The cause of the fire is a complete mystery, but it evidently started in the shifting room and spread so rapidly that the workmen had to make a hurried exit.

All the stables, the cooper shops and the whole mill buildings were destroyed, only the bare walls remaining and the firemen had hard work to prevent the fire from sweeping St. Paul street, the principal business thoroughfare, upon which the mill fronted. Fortunately there was no wind, or nothing could have prevented a million dollar loss.

Soldiers quartered here, and the citizens, worked with the regular fire brigade, and Merriton and Thorold, nearby places, sent their firemen and apparatus. Hamilton was ready to send a squad with an engine when the fire was reported under control. There are hints of the fire being the work of spies, but there is no proof.

Williamstown, Mass, Dec. 7—Fire early today destroyed the Thompson Chemical Laboratory of Williams' College, a three-story brick building. The loss is estimated at $100,000.

TEUTONS AGAIN RUSHING TROOPS TO WESTERN FRONT

London, Dec. 7.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Rotterdam says:

"Newspapers from south and west Germany, which had been stopped for a fortnight, came to hand to day. This may mean that a concentration of German troops on the western front for the expected big battle has been completed.

"Undoubtedly troops have been pouring into France and Belgium for a week, but it cannot be learned precisely whether as a precaution against an Entente allied offensive or whether Germany will take the initiative."

TROUBLE WHEN HE WENT TO ERIN STREET HOME FOR FIANCEE

Paul Randall, a young Finlander, swore in the police court this morning that William McAleer assaulted him yesterday afternoon by striking him in the face with his fist and later by hitting him in the side with an axe.

Yesterday afternoon, he said, while seeking his bride-to-be, he went to a house in Erin street, where he learned she was staying. When he knocked at the door he learned that the young woman had lived there but had left the house some time ago. He said he did not believe this and he stepped inside but when he entered the room the defendant rushed at him and struck him several times in the face. He said he was forced to retreat to a door leading into an alley. As the defendant rushed and seized an axe another man leaped at the defendant and struck him several times. He then received a blow on the side from the axe. The witness said he did not retaliate, but merely tried to defend himself. He said he was badly cut up and had to have his injuries attended to in a drug store.

While being cross questioned by the defendant he said he bore the prisoner no ill will and was willing to allow the matter to drop. In answer to another question he said he would have been killed if he had not been able to defend himself. He said he was a contractor and had been engaged on the Valley Railway. He said the woman he was seeking was his wife and on being cross questioned said that the marriage had taken place yesterday afternoon after the fracas. The prisoner was then remanded to jail.

Magistrate Ritchie said that although the plaintiff had signified his willingness to allow the matter to drop he was not disposed to do so. He said that there was too much of that thing going on and he was determined to put a stop to such violations of the law.

ANOTHER MEETING OF WAR COUNCIL TODAY

Paris, Dec. 17—Another meeting of the general war council of the Entente Allies will be held here today. All the subjects under consideration yesterday were fully discussed, making another conference necessary.

Phelix and Pherdinand

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meterological service.

Synopsis—The high pressure area which has covered the Great Lakes for some days, is now giving way to the approach of a shallow depression from the northwest. Snow flurries have occurred in Manitoba, also over Lake Superior and the maritime provinces.

Generally Fair

Maritime—Fresh northeast to north winds. Generally fair today and on Wednesday with about the same temperature.

New England forecast—Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday, fresh northwest winds.

GERMANY KEEPS FROM PEOPLE KNOWLEDGE OF TROUBLE IN WASHINGTON

Berlin, Nov. 7.—It is said that the request of the United States for the recall of Captain Franz Von Papen and Capt. Karl Boy-Ed will undoubtedly be complied with in accordance with diplomatic usage, but Germany probably will ask first to be informed of the grounds on which the United States government bases the undesirability of the attaches.

News of the request for the recall has not been published as yet by the German press.

This despatch is the first direct word from Berlin in regard to the probable action of the German government. Since Germany already has asked Washington for information as to the grounds for recall, it would appear that this fact had not been made public in Berlin up to the time of the filing of the despatch.

Washington, Dec. 7—Secretary of state Lansing has replied to Germany that the American government's request for the withdrawal of Captain Boy-Ed and Captain Von Papen was entirely because of their military and naval activities.

ANOTHER SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN, 52 MEN ARE MISSING

London, Dec. 7.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Malta says the steamer Umeta is reported sunk in the Mediterranean. Forty-nine survivors were landed, but five officers and forty-seven Lascars are missing.

The Umeta was of 3,825 tons net. The last report of her was when she passed Perim on Nov. 8, bound north.

RAMORE HEAD HERE; FIRST VISIT OF SEASON

The Donaldson liner Ramore Head, which arrived in port last night, docked at McLeod's wharf this morning. She had a general cargo from Glasgow. The passage was made in twelve days and was uneventful. This is the first trip of the steamer to this port since last winter. The officers in charge are: Commander, W. J. Finley; first officer, W. Mathers; second officer, M. Sheridon; third officer, A. McLarnon; fourth officer, J. McGowan; engineer, Wm. Tutin.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet liner Caraquet sailed this morning for the West Indies and Demerara with a large general cargo.

FIRE ON STEAMER FHICH REACHES HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7—With fire raging in No. 2 hold, the British steamer Carlton arrived in port yesterday with 7,300 tons of sugar.

"What was the cause of the explosion?" the captain was asked.

"What is the cause of them all?" he replied. He said the ship was rolling heavily when the fire was discovered, and he was not sure whether an explosion had occurred.

The steamer Carlton, 4403 tons, of Newcastle, sailed from New York with sugar last Thursday, bound for Queenstown for orders.

Chinese Killed

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 7.—Ying Hock, a Chinese, is dead from injuries believed to have been inflicted by Ching Li, on a ranch near Sumas.

Says Greece Simply Playing For Time

Hoping That Allies Will be Driven to Sea--Venizelos Likely to Win in Elections--Germany Wearing Herself Out

Paris, Dec. 7.—The Athens correspondent of the Matin, in a despatch relative to the attitude of Greece toward the Entents Powers, says:

"The government is simply playing for time, hoping that the Entente Allies will be forced to the sea by the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians. It will be found in a week or so that an agreement between the Greek and the allied staffs cannot be reached and that the government will declare that, notwithstanding Greece's traditional good will towards the Entente Powers, it cannot accede to their demands."

The correspondent affirms that the only effective course is to apply a blockade to Greece, and adds:

"It will be more fruitful in results, since popular discontent with the royal policy is growing perceptibly. If the elections had been held three weeks ago, the Venizelos party would have been beaten, but now, nowithstanding the extraordinary conditions under which they will be held, he is likely to get a majority. A blockade not only would starve the population, but would ruin the mercantile marine, Greece's sole source of wealth. Consequently the general public is deeply agitated and business circles are anxious."

GERMANY WEARING HERSELF OUT.

Paris, Dec. 7—The Athens correspondent of the Figaro sends an interview with M. Baloughdjitch, Serbian minister to Greece, concerning the Teutonic campaign in the Balkans. He quotes the minister as follows:

"The effects of the campaign are nil. The more fronts the Germans fight on, the more rapidly will they exhaust themselves. The object of the Balkan undertaking was to strike the imagination and force peace. One of my neutral colleagues informed me that Germany asked a powerful pacificist organization in his country to start a movement in favor of peace, but that his government was opposed to the proceeding, knowing that it would be unfavorably received by England and France."

Berlin Report

Berlin, Dec. 7—The war office announces today that the French forces in southwestern Serbia, near the Vardar River, have been compelled to retreat.

The capture of Ipek, Montenegro, is announced.

SCORCHING INDICTMENT BY THE U. S. PRESIDENT

Wilson in Address to Congress Flays Hyphenated Americans For Fiendish Work

Washington, Dec. 7—In words that fairly snapped with their vigor and burned in their vitriolic strength, President Wilson hurled at congress today a denunciation of hyphenated-Americanism. It was the electric shock of his annual message to congress. The bitter words with which he embellished his demand that Congress take cognizance of "corruptions of the mind and heart" against those "who had poured the poison of disloyalty into the very arteries of our national life" rang out staccato-like in the vast hall of the house of representatives. The president demanded that the law-makers devise a means of reaching those, "who have sought to bring the authority and good name of our government into contempt, to destroy our industries wherever they thought it effective for their vindictive purposes to strike at them, and to debase our politics to the uses of foreign intrigue."

He urged such measures, "to do nothing less than save the honor and self-respect of the nation."

The very vigor of the phrases seemed intensified by the fact that a president himself spoke them. "Corrupt distempters," "Ugly and incredible things," "Malign reaction," were some of his diatribes.

(Continued on page 2, first column)

EXTRA CLERKS TO HELP HANDLE THE MAILS

The overseas mails this year are expected to be larger than ever in the postal history of Canada, and already the staff of railway mail clerks attached to the local office has been increased to cope with the Christmas rush. In a few days also extra help will be placed at work in the local department of the post office to assist the regular staff in the assortment and distribution of mail matter, as the local rush will be later in starting than that handled by the railway mail department for overseas and Canadian distribution.

The list of clerks added to the staff of the railway mail office includes F. J. Irvine, H. C. Keys, W. E. Demings, Richard Murphy, J. A. Garnett, R. N. Gilmour, all of St. John; J. A. Perkins of Hampton and James D. Carey and C. R. Porter at Moncton.

IN THE COURTS

In the circuit court, James Johnstone, who took ill yesterday, pleaded guilty to the charges made against him, preferred by some young girls, and was remanded for sentence.

The case against Quong Lee, a Chinese, on similar charges, was proceeded with, and evidence for the prosecution given by four girls and Chief of Police Simpson. The defence was commenced with the prisoner taking the stand, and will be continued this afternoon. D. Mullin, K. C., and G. H. V. Belyea are appearing for Lee, and Attorney General Baxter, K. C., for the crown.

Before Judge Armstrong in the county court this morning four colored people pleaded guilty under the speedy trials act to entering the house of Mrs. Turner at Coldbrook. They were allowed to go on suspended sentence, with the promise to make good the damage done.

Postpone Russian Duma

Petrograd via London, Dec. 7—Emperor Nicholas has postponed indefinitely the opening of the Duma and the council of the empire on the ground that the budget committees are unprepared.

STROMBERG-ELDERKIN

The wedding of Laurrie Daniel Stromberg of Wallace, Cumberland, N.S., to Miss Lyla Bella Elderkin of Apple River, Cumberland, was solemnized last evening by Rev. Dr. Hutchinson at his home, 80 Main street. They were unattended. After spending a few days in the city, Mr. and Mrs. Stromberg will make their home in Wallace.

REAL ESTATE NEWS

A two-family leasehold dwelling in Main street, owned by the estate of the late Rev. Dr. W. E. McIntyre, has been sold through Taylor & Sweeney to George T. Buchanan.

Other transfers of freehold properties have been recorded as follows:

St. John County

B. R. Armstrong to James Hogan, property in Portland Place.

Canadian Consolidated Lands, Ltd., to Robert Job, $1,734, property in Lancaster.

Luther Jordan to Herman Wiesel, $14,000, property.

Kings County

J. G. Downey to Sarah M. Downey, property in Springfield.

F. H. McEwen to Delilah McEwan, property in Norton.

George Raymond to W. R. Wallery, $438, property in Norton.

Realties, Ltd., to Jean M. Roach, property in Rothesay.

Realties, Ltd., to Ella M. Fleetwood, property in Rothesay.

Riddle-Robbins Lumber Company to C. N. Harrison, property at Kars and Springfield.

T. N. Vincent to B. H. Parks, property in Rothesay.

POLICE COURT

A fine of $8 or two months in jail was struck against three men in the police court this morning on drunkenness charges.

William McAuliff given in charge last night for drunkenness and creating a disturbance in his home in Kitchener street, was remanded.

John Morgan arrested last night by Policeman Hogg on charge of drunkenness, creating a disturbance in front of the Imperial Theatre, using obscene language and also for resisting the police, was remanded as he desired to procure witnesses. Policeman Hogg and also the policeman of the Imperial Theatre testified. Magistrate Ritchie warned Morgan that he had better procure witnesses to prove his innocence as he was liable to one year in jail if found guilty.

INQUEST TONIGHT

Coroner W. F. Roberts will hold an inquest in the Court House this evening into the death of Abraham Tracy. This morning he empanelled the following jury:—William H. Sharpe, Timothy O'Brien, H. C. Mott, George Moore, Charles Heans, W. A. Steiper and Edward Trainor. After viewing the body in Brenan's Undertaking Parlors, Main street, they proceeded to the scene of the accident.

Three Brothers Sign On Roll of 115th Battalion

Ottawa Authorizes Organization of The 145th Battalion--Soon Five Under Way --The 104th Band Away to Sussex

The honor roll of the 115th battalion yesterday included the name of C. Herbert Mason of this city, late of Millstream. Today's list includes the names of his two brothers, James Walter and Robert Milton Mason, both of Millstream, and all three will march together in the colors of the battalion to be commanded by Lieut.-Col. Wedderburn. In addition to these, Walter C. Montford of St. John, and Charles A. Calabrese of Fairville, were accepted for the 115th today, and Arthur A. Harris of St. John for "B" Co., 69th battalion.

To Halifax

Eleven young men left on the noon train today for Halifax to take special courses for the rank of non-commissioned officer. A special N. C. O's course is being started in Halifax today. The majority of these men will be attached to the new siege battery, which is now about completed.

The 145th

With authority from Ottawa to form a battalion in Westmorland county, New Brunswick now has in process of mobilization, four battalions, the 115th, 132nd, 140th and the new one to be known as the 145th. And a fifth one is foreshadowed in the announcement by Sir Sam Hughes in Ottawa yesterday that an Acadian battalion was to be organized in this province, bringing the total recruits, when these are filled, to about 5,000 men, exclusive of the 104th recently completed and the other units established.

A Westmorland Battalion

The recruiting officer at Monscton, Lieut. D. R. Chandler, yesterday received from Capt. L. P. D. Tilley, provincial recruiting officer, authority to recruit a battalion in Westmorland for overseas service. Coupled with it was the permission for men to join whatever unit they preferred, but from now on in that county all recruiting is to be for the 145th. It will be officered as much as possible from Westmorland. The expectation is that Major W. E. Forbes will command with lieut.-Colonel's rank, that Major L. C. Carey of Sackville will be senior major, and Capt. E. E. Wood, junior major.

Capt. Tilley said today that he had no official word regarding the mobilization of the 145th, but that he understood orders had been given authorizing its establishment. The details here given were taken from the Moncton Transcript.

To Sussex

The members of the 104th Battalion band were called to Sussex today at noon. A large gathering of friends assembled at the depot to bid them farewell. The band has rendered excellent and praiseworthy service since being mustered here, and has been very beneficial in the work of recruiting and other patriotic endeavors.

The recruiting committee had no knowledge of their going, and regretted the fact as they had intended tendering them a fitting farewell. Mayor Frink, Commissioners Russell and Wigmore were at the depot, however, with a few other citizens, and His Worship made a brief address to the bandsmen, complimenting them upon the fine spirit they had shown. He praised their action in volunteering as a unit, with their own instruments, and spoke of the excellent services they had rendered. Commissioners Wigmore and Russell also spoke briefly.

In behalf of friends, John Russell presented to the bandsmen some 300 cigars. It is understood that on their return to their homes here for the Christmas leave, they will be given some formal civic recognition in the form of a banquet or other honor.

Defeat of the Bulgarians in attacks on the French line at three points at Abozarki, Demir-Kapu and Costermorinto is reported