

"TO BERLIN IN THREE WEEKS"

Alleged to Be Aim of Russian Offensive Plan.

TO GO AROUND FORTRESSES

Germans Still Falling Back—Important Gains Claimed By Saint Petersburg in Austria.

St. Petersburg, via Rome.—That the plans of the Russian Army contemplate an attack on Berlin within three weeks is officially admitted here. At the same time it was stated that not only has the Russian mobilization been completed but that 8,000,000 men are now under arms.

The troops have been divided into four armies of 2,000,000 each. These armies are being sent into the field from the inland mobilization centres to operate one behind the other, the armies in the rear filling the gaps in the ranks of those in front after each general engagement.

Not To Storm Forts.

Because of the enormous forces that will be in the field it is reported to be the general plan of the Russian offensive not to try to take the German chain of main forts by storm. Instead the Russians will attempt to isolate each of them, leaving a large enough force at every point to keep the garrisons bottled up and also to prevent any attacks on their flanks or their own lines of communication.

The main Russian advance, it is expected, will approach Posen from the south, crossing the south bend of the Warta river some miles from the Russian frontier, and then move against Posen between the Oder and Warta rivers.

Russians Say They Took Tilsit.

St. Petersburg, via London.—It is officially announced that the Russians have occupied Tilsit, a town 60 miles northeast of Koenigsberg, East Prussia.

The following official communication was also made public: "Our offensive both in East Prussia and Galicia developed increasing success on August 25. The Germans hastily retreated everywhere toward Koenigsberg and Allenstein."

In Galicia our troops are marching rapidly on Lemberg. Our cavalry has pursued the enemy everywhere on our line, our advance frequently engaging the Austrians, who each time have been beaten and routed.

Profess To Fear Poison.

A Russian army order prohibits the use of food and forage abandoned by the Germans in East Prussia because of cases of poisoning which have occurred at Eydtkuhnen, Gumbinnen and Insterburg.

AUSTRIA FOLLOWS ALLY

Tokio Professes Surprise—Washington Notified and Issues Proclamation of Neutrality.

Tokio.—The Austrian Ambassador, Baron Mueller de Szentgyorgy, has been recalled.

The situation between Japan and Austria is described here as a "rupture of diplomatic relations, not war."

The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador explained to Premier Kato that Austria felt in duty bound to follow her ally and withdraw her Ambassador from Japan.

This evening M. Kato sent his secretary to the diplomat carrying the latter's passport.

The news of the declaration of war by Austria-Hungary on Japan, following the official announcement of the disarming of the Austrian cruiser Kaiserin Elizabeth, in the port of Tsingtau, caused surprise at Tokio. It has been hoped here that Austria-Hungary, having but small interests in the Far East, would not force a breach of relations with Tokio, especially as Austria-Hungary always has been regarded as friendly to Japan. The Austrian Ambassador and the members of his staff always have been popular here.

Washington Informed.

Washington, D. C.—Ambassador Dumba of Austria formally notified the United States that diplomatic relations between Austria and Japan had been severed, but made no reference to any declaration of war.

The Austrian Ambassador advised the State Department that the Austrian Emperor had ordered the cruiser Kaiserin Elizabeth to join the German fleet off Tsingtau. Last Monday instructions were sent to the officers of the ship to dismantle it and officials here do not know as yet whether the change of decision at Vienna reached the officers of the cruiser in time to prevent her from being abandoned.

The Japanese Embassy here was notified from Tokio that diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary had been formally severed when the Austrian Ambassador at Tokio asked the Japanese Government for his passports.

GERMANS WIN VICTORIES ON LAND; DEFEATED ON THE SEA

WAR NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD.

The armies of the Allies, after nine days of fighting, have been badly defeated, according to an official dispatch from Berlin.

The Germans claim, in the same dispatch, that the British were badly defeated at Maubeuge, and in danger of being surrounded.

Another official German dispatch announces that the allied armies in the North are actually surrounded and that the city of Louvain, Belgium, was destroyed because of civilians attacking the invaders.

The Paris War Office announced that the situation remained the same and that German activity has slackened.

Premier Asquith stated that on Wednesday the British Army was attacked by a superior force of Germans and that the losses on both sides were enormous.

East Indian troops are already on the way to reinforce the British in France.

Ostend is defended by a large force of British marines. Berlin claims that German troops are within a short distance of Ostend.

Occupation of Tilsit, in East Prussia, by Russians is confirmed. Additional armies are to invade West Prussia, and march on Berlin, according to Russian officials. Emperor Wilhelm has wired his Cabinet to organize all possible relief for Prussia.

The last reserves of Germany have been called out.

Three German cruisers and two destroyers were sunk by the British off Heligoland. Many prizes of German merchantmen are reported to have been taken by British warships.

The Belgian Congo has been attacked by German troops, according to a dispatch from Libreville, in the French Congo.

London.—The first important naval action of the war was fought Friday in Heligoland Bight, resulting in a smashing blow delivered by the British—cruisers, destroyers and submarines against the German scouting squadron.

The net damage to the German fleet was two cruisers and two destroyers sunk, and one cruiser set afire and last seen in flight in a sinking condition.

The officer in chief command of the British force was Rear Admiral Sir David Beatty, who married the daughter of Marshal Field, of Chicago.

Following is the text issued by the official press bureau: "Early Friday morning a concerted operation of some consequence was attempted against the Germans in Heligoland Bight.

A strong force of destroyers, supported by light cruisers and battle cruisers and working in conjunction with the submarines, intercepted and attacked the German destroyers and cruisers guarding the approaches to the German coast. Two German destroyers were sunk and many damaged.

The enemy's cruisers were engaged by the British cruisers and battle cruisers. The first light cruiser squadron sank the Mainz, receiving only slight damage. The first battle cruiser squadron sank one cruiser of the Koeln class, and another cruiser disappeared in the mist, heavily on fire and in a sinking condition.

"All the German cruisers engaged were thus disposed of. The battle cruiser squadron, although attacked by submarines and floating mines, successfully evaded them and is undamaged. The light cruiser squadron suffered no casualties. The flotilla cruiser Amethyst and the destroyer Laertes are damaged. The British loss of life is reported as not heavy."

The importance of this daring raid is the fact that the British fleet passed behind Germany's heavily armed outpost at Heligoland Island and engaged with signal success the German mosquito fleet guarding the mouth of the Elbe.

The Island of Heligoland, which lies 45 miles off the mouths of the Rivers Elbe and Weser, always has been regarded a point of great strategic value for the protection of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal and otherwise in the naval defence of Germany. Recent reports that it has a large part of the flower of the German navy lay in the waters adjacent to the mouths of the Elbe and Weser, and in the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

FURIOUS GERMAN ASSAULTS. London (Saturday).—The battle in France continues and the losses are enormous. The British admit heavy casualties. The Germans are hurling themselves against the entire line of the allies with unprecedented fury.

A dispatch from Boulogne says that German troops broke through the French lines, near Arras, in the Province of Pas de Calais. The French moved up with rapidity. It is declared, and have the situation well in hand.

The dispatch says that the allied troops are being swiftly arranged to deal with any further attempt to break through the line between Dunkirk and Lille.

There was heavy fighting at Valenciennes when the Germans broke through the French line. The allies acquitted themselves well, however, and succeeded in pushing the German advance forces back on their main body. The German advance forces were also repulsed at Pont a Marcq.

There was also fighting at Tournai, where the Germans were repulsed. It is believed here that the Germans have occupied Valenciennes, but the British are reported to have driven back the enemy near Mons.

There is nothing to indicate that the Allies' line from Mons to Conde has been seriously turned.

French industrial centers, such as Roubaix and Turcoing, are frequently visited by German cavalry and are occupied and evacuated every day.

Berlin.—By wireless (via Sayville, L. I.): Headquarters has issued an official report declaring that the western enemy has everywhere been defeated

and is in full retreat after nine days' fighting.

General Von Kluk defeated the English Army at Maubeuge, renewed the attack and threatened to surround it.

Generals Von Buelow and Von Hausen completely defeated the Franco-Belgian forces, about eight corps, between the Sambre and the Namur and the Meuse in several days' battle.

The attack on Maubeuge was opened by the Duke Duke Albrecht of Wurttemberg, who defeated and pursued the enemy across the Semois and the Meuse.

The German Crown Prince is advancing toward the Meuse, and the Crown Prince of Bavaria repulsed an attack from Nancy and the south.

General von Herringen continues the pursuit southward through the Voges.

Four Belgian divisions attacking Tuesday and Wednesday from Antwerp have been repulsed, losing guns and many prisoners. The Belgian population generally participated in the fighting necessitating severe repressive measures.

The corps of the last German reserves have been called out to guard communications.

RUSSIANS DRIVE A WEDGE. London.—The Russian troops are pouring into Germany by the tens of thousands. There are 5,000,000 on the way, with 10,000,000 more to come if necessary. Every day they are moving faster.

They have taken a vigorous offensive in Galicia, and the Germans are rapidly falling back upon their defense at Koenigsberg on the road to Berlin. Austrian troops are being rushed from Bosnia to Galicia to back up the Germans, who already have lost very heavily.

In Southern East Prussia the Germans have evacuated the district of Masurenland.

The Russians sustained no check in this very difficult country, and they occupied its western outlets. It is confirmed that they captured a hundred guns from the enemy.

The Russians have also occupied Tilsit, a town 60 miles northeast of Koenigsberg.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Post, in describing the operations in East Prussia, tells of the difficulties which nature has placed in the way of the Russian advance, and says the Germans had enormously multiplied these difficulties by a modern adaptation of age-old methods.

"Lakelets and marshes were sown with rifle pits, and wherever practicable redoubts of felled timber were placed. Everywhere there were formidable wire entanglements."

AUSTRIA DECLARES WAR ON BELGIUM. Vienna, via London.—Austria Friday declared war on Belgium. The Belgian Ambassador was handed his passports at the Foreign Office, all diplomatic relations were broken off and the way cleared for Austrian troops joining the Germans in the operations on Belgian soil if necessary.

Until Friday Belgium was the only one of the allied powers at war with Germany alone. France, England and Russia had heretofore made declarations against both Austria and Germany.

AUSTRIAN LOSSES MARKED UP. London.—A dispatch from Paris to Reuter's Telegram Company says: "The losses of the Austrians in the battle of the Drina continue to grow, according to telegrams from Nish. The latest aver that out of 300,000 Austrians engaged 15,000 were killed, 30,000 wounded and 15,000 made prisoners. Seventy-five guns were captured."

With the re-occupation of Shabats by the Servians, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Cetinje, Montenegro, the 4,000 Austrian prisoners have been doubled, 4,000 additional men having been captured between Losauza and Shabats during the Servian march to occupy the latter town. The Servian casualties in retaking Shabats are admitted to have been very heavy.

WILHELM DER GROSSE SUNK

Sent to Bottom By a British Cruiser.

THE SURVIVORS LANDED

German Armed Merchant Cruiser Meets Destruction Off West Coast Of Africa—Had Been Interfering With Traffic.

London.—The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse has been sunk off the west coast of Africa by the British cruiser Highflyer.

Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, announced the sinking of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse in the House of Commons. He said: "The admiralty has just received intelligence that the German armed merchant cruiser Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, of 14,000 tons and armed with ten 4-inch guns, has been sunk by the H. M. S. Highflyer off the west coast of Africa.

"This is the vessel which has been interfering with traffic between this country and the cape and is one of the very few German armed auxiliary cruisers which succeeded in getting to sea. The survivors were landed before the vessel sank. The Highflyer had one killed and five wounded.

The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse was one of the patrol steamers of the North German Lloyd Line. At the outbreak of the war she was converted into an armed cruiser and since has been reported active in searching for British merchantmen. She has a tonnage of 14,349 and was built in 1897. She was 626 feet long with a beam of 66 feet.

It was on this vessel that the late Mayor Gaynor, of New York, was shot as he was about to sail for Europe.

GERMAN CRUISER SUNK. Magdeburg Attacked By Russian Fleet—17 Killed, 25 Wounded.

Berlin, via Amsterdam and London.—The German Admiralty has issued the following: "The light cruiser Magdeburg ran ashore in a fog on the island of Odenburg, in the Gulf of Finland. Owing to thick weather other German warships in the vicinity were unable to render assistance and all efforts to float the vessel having failed, the captain decided to sacrifice his ship, as a superior Russian naval force was preparing to attack.

"Under a heavy fire from the Russian fleet a majority of the cruiser's crew was saved by the German torpedo boat 'V.26.' Seventeen men were killed, 25 wounded and 85, including the captain, are missing. The Magdeburg was blown up."

RUSSIAN HONORS WITHDRAWN. No Honorary Commands and Orders For Hostile Rulers.

London.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times says: "Military circles are much impressed by an order dismissing the German and Austrian sovereigns and princes from honorary colonelships in Russian regiments and depriving them of Russian decorations.

"This has never been done in any war. The Emperor has positively forbidden Russian officers to wear German or Austrian decorations. These extreme measures were decided upon at a special council held in Moscow and are due to the alleged inhuman treatment of Russian subjects by Germans and Austrians and to the indignities said to have been inflicted on members of the Russian imperial family."

FIRST BRITISH WOUNDED HOME. London.—The first British wounded from the Continent, numbering about 30, arrived by steamer at Folkestone from Boulogne. They were driven in motorcars to the Shorncliffe Hospital and were loudly cheered by large crowds assembled outside the harbor gates.

HOW ZEPPELINS DROP BOMBS. London.—The method used by Zeppelin airships in dropping bombs has been described as follows by an English refugee who has just arrived here from Belgium:

The dirigible hovers over its objective at a sufficient altitude to keep it out of range of the enemy's guns. At the same time it lowers a steel cage attached to a steel wire rope 2,000 or 3,000 feet long. This cage is divided into compartments, and it carries one man, whose duty it is to throw down the bombs.

The cage is sufficiently strong to make rifle fire against it ineffective, and because of its small size and the fact that it is kept constantly in motion it is very difficult for heavy guns to hit it.

KEYSTONE STATE IN SHORT ORDER

Latest News Happenings Gathered From Here and There.

TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

Patriotic Order Sons of America Oppose the Manufacture Of Intoxicating Liquors As a Beverage. Automobile Demolished.

Nathan Lavine, sixty-three years old, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was hit on the head with a broomstick in the barn of John and Peter Wanke, brothers, at Newport, and died in the Palmerton Hospital. He says he entered the barn by mistake. The brothers, who have been arrested on a charge of murder and are in the Easton jail, say they had been missing milk for some time and were on watch for the thief. Lavine entered and a fight ensued.

Because the family bread winners have returned to Europe to fight in the present war, the poor directors of Western Pennsylvania counties are being beset with applications for aid from destitute foreign families. In the coal and coke region, which is embraced in Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette, Greene and Somerset counties, the task of providing the deserted families with food is becoming acute.

Michael Lavelle, twenty-five years old, of Centralia, was blown to atoms at Packer No. 5 Colliery, Shamokin, when a box containing thirty sticks of dynamite exploded. He was employed as a driller and was about to light a charge when the explosion occurred. His body was picked up in small pieces. The deceased returned from Colorado a few days ago and was working his first day.

A blow was aimed at the saloon in resolutions adopted by the State Camp, Patriotic Order Sons of America, at York. Resolutions urged Congress to oppose the manufacture of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Furtherance of the immigration bill vetoed by President Taft and now before the United States Senate was the aim of another resolution.

Dominick Kriner, a hermit, was found senseless in bed at Shamokin from paralysis. It is supposed he was stricken Saturday. Police searched the house at the request of neighbors. Under his pillow was a revolver and \$17. A pass book showed he had \$500 in a bank. It was thought he was penniless. He was removed to the almshouse in a dying condition.

Owing to the failure of Mt. Carmel township authorities to stop the practice of a large number of inhabitants of Kulpmont and vicinity of hurling missiles at automobiles, members of the Mt. Carmel and Shamokin auto clubs petitioned Superintendent Groome, of the State Police, for a troop of constabulary to arrest the alleged law breakers.

The Knights of Equity, in National convention at Pittsburgh, elected these officers: Supreme president, John A. O'Dwyer, Toledo; vice-president, Frank E. Shaughnessy, Pittsburgh; secretary, H. P. Walsh, Buffalo; treasurer, Maurice Maner, Boston; lecturer, James Lynch, Detroit. Detroit is next year's convention city.

An automobile belonging to Harry E. Sprengle, of Bair's Station, was struck and demolished by a freight train on the Western Maryland Railroad. Four occupants of the car, Mr. Sprengle, Harry E. Hain, Charles E. Hain and Jacob Cohn, the latter three from York, jumped and escaped.

A voluntary petition in bankruptcy was filed in Federal Court at Sunbury by William Krug, a Berwick contractor and lumber dealer, whose assets were given as \$48,481.72, and liabilities \$45,181.55. Judge Charles B. Wilmer appointed William E. Elmer, a Berwick lawyer, as receiver.

Joseph Bogert, fourteen, of Shamokin, was returning on a freight train from Sunbury when he fell under the cars and an arm and his legs were cut off. As a doctor was dressing the injuries the boy told him to let him die as he would be no good for any one hereafter.

Two gas tanks exploded in the boiler-making plant of the John Wood Manufacturing Company, at Conshohocken, did considerable damage and injured Frank Fisher, Hugh Sweeney and an alien, all workmen.

B. V. Wolf, of Harrisburg, a Pennsylvania Railroad fireman, was taken to the Norristown Hospital after both legs had been crushed in an accident on the Trenton cut-off railroad, near Norristown. He died forty-five minutes later.

Frank Scott and William Zane, who robbed the Northern Central Railway passenger station at Hanover last June, were convicted at York and sentenced to the Eastern Penitentiary for not less than four nor more than ten years.

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