

BATTLESHIP FORMIDABLE SUNK BY A SUBMARINE IN CHANNEL 600 MEN PERISH; 150 SAVED

British Vessel Torpedoed Fore and Aft by Germans Say Men Whom Trawler Picked Up

FRENCH TELL OF PROGRESS IN VOSGES AND ARGONNE

London.—German naval warfare once more succeeded in getting home on the British fleet, when, in the height of a heavy gale in the English Channel, the battleship Formidable was struck either by a mine or a submarine torpedo and went down with more than 600 of her crew.

The Daily Chronicle states that survivors of the battleship report that the vessel was torpedoed both fore and aft, and sank almost immediately, giving the crew hardly time to escape.

The official announcement from the Press Bureau reads merely as follows: "The battleship Formidable was sunk in the Channel, but whether by a mine or a submarine is not yet certain. Seventy-one survivors have been picked up by a British light cruiser, and it is possible that others may have been rescued by other vessels."

This expressed hope was partly fulfilled later in the day, when the trawler Providence made port in Tor Bay, bringing with her seventy additional members of the Formidable's crew, making the total saved out of 750, so far as is known, 141.

The Formidable was more than fifteen years old, and in the age of dreadnoughts had long outlived her name. She was a 15,000-ton ship, and went into commission in 1899, being a sister of the Irresistible and Implacable.

CAMPAIGNS EAST AND WEST.

London.—On the eastern battle front, the Austrians seem to be continuing their retreat toward Cracow and the Carpathians with the victorious Russians hard on their heels, while in Poland the German invaders are being vigorously attacked along an 80-mile line from Opoczno north to the juncture of the Bzura with the Vistula and are decidedly on the defensive. In this fighting both Petrograd and Berlin claim the advantage. In East Prussia the Germans report gaining ground against the invading Russians.

Hot fighting continues at the North Sea extreme of the western battle line, where the little town of St. Georges, a couple of miles east of Nieuport, is the bone of contention. Berlin now admits its capture by the Allies. The Allies claim to have advanced a little to the north of Nieuport. There is continuous fighting in the Vosges and the Argonne, with the French reporting gains. Along the Aisne and in the Champagne region heavy artillery duels rage.

As usual, both Petrograd and Constantinople tell of victories in the Caucasus.

From Lisbon comes an official report that the Germans have invaded Angola and driven back the Portuguese troops. German attacks on Portuguese West Africa have been reported several times before, but have always been denied by Berlin.

GERMAN FLIERS RAIN BOMBS ON CHANNEL PORT.

London.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Dunkirk telegraphs: "In answer to our raid on Cuxhaven German aeroplanes raided Dunkirk, dropping bombs all over the town. A fleet of four aeroplanes flew several times across the city, dropping bombs on each journey. The soldiers in the streets replied with a vigorous rifle fire, but the aeroplanes sailed calmly on. One seemed to have been hit, for it turned its head and descended several hundred feet before righting itself, but it got away safely."

No sooner did one aeroplane seem to be departing than another arrived. The whole city crackled with the noise of the rifle shots and bombs which threw up dense clouds of black smoke. Buildings and windows were smashed in all directions. The tramway lines were cut clear through in one place.

The first bombs fell in the fortifications. Two more landed near the railway station. Others fell in the Rue Caumartin, in the kitchen of the military hospital near the town hall, in the Rue Pierre and Nieuport, near the arsenal and in the suburb of Rosendael.

Factory districts in Condekerque and Furnes also suffered. Many were wounded in these places. The arm of a child was blown off. An old woman was killed outright, her body dreadfully disfigured. The bombs were filled with shrapnel which split the walls of buildings.

The official returns estimate the casualties at 15 killed and 22 wounded.

TO WEAR COTTON UNIFORMS.

Experiment in England May Mean Much to the Industry.

London.—Thousands of recruits in the North of England Territorial Association soon will be wearing suits of cotton, khaki or overall over the ordinary clothing until equipped with woolen uniforms for service at the front in France.

This is an experiment sanctioned by the War Office, and, if successful, will be important to the Lancashire cotton industry.

War at a Glance

MONDAY.

Renewal of the German offensive in Poland, reported from Petrograd, is said to be developing in such a manner as to lead Russian military observers to believe that the Germans' real goal is not so much Warsaw as Novo Georgiewsk and Ivangorod.

The Austrian retreat before the Russians in Bukowina has taken the character of a great rout, according to an official announcement at Petrograd. It is stated that during the past fortnight Gen. Radko Dimitrieff has captured 22,570 Austrians and 45 machine guns.

In spite of the bad weather which continues along nearly the whole of the western front, there has been heavy artillery and infantry fighting, without, however, materially changing the situation.

An intimation that the British Government contemplates the introduction of conscription for increasing the army and navy was given by Thomas J. MacNamara, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, in a speech at London.

Capture by the Turks of Ardagan, a Russian fortified town in Transcaucasia, is announced by the Turkish War Office. The announcement also states that Turks, in conjunction with Persian tribesmen, defeated 4,000 Russians 10 miles northeast of Saonbulak.

London reports receipt of dispatches indicating that the Balkan Peninsula may soon be involved in the war.

WEDNESDAY.

A Berlin dispatch states that the French appear to be developing new activity along an extended line against Alsace and Sundgau, and that news of importance is likely to come from the Vosges at any time.

Confirmation of reports from Petrograd telling of the repulse of Austrian armies in Galicia comes by wireless from Berlin, the dispatch stating that the Russian force in that region has proved itself superior to its opponents and that the Austrians will be "compelled to make new dispositions."

Petrograd sends further word of Russian successes in Galicia, and says the Austrian retreat along the Lisko-Sabok-Dukla-Zmigrod front is becoming more and more disorderly. An official announcement from the Russian general headquarters represents that in Poland the Russians are more than holding their own against the Germans.

Of the fighting in Poland the German War Office says that progress has been made by the Germans on the Vistula, Bzura and Rawa rivers, and that in the region south of Nowolud strong Russian attacks have been repulsed.

Loss of the French submarine Curie in Austrian waters is admitted by the French Minister of Marine.

THURSDAY.

Vienna admits the success of the Russians in Galicia, and says it has been necessary for the Austrians to withdraw their forces along the entire eastern front and in the plain of Gorlice.

Turkish successes in the Caucasus are reported from Constantinople, via Berlin.

An official announcement at Berlin admits that the Germans have been driven out of the village of St. Georges, in Belgium, south of Nieuport. The French statement says St. Georges has been violently bombarded by the Germans since its capture by the Allies, who are putting the position in a state of defense.

Seven German aeroplanes flew over Dunkirk, on the French coast, and dropped bombs.

FRIDAY.

Hard fighting in Upper Alsace is reported in an announcement from the German War Office, which says that house after house in Steinbach has been destroyed by French artillery, but the village is still in possession of the Germans. French attacks west of Sennheim are declared to have broken down under the fire of German artillery.

According to the French official report, French troops now occupy half of the village of Steinbach, and house-to-house fighting is in progress there.

Over 30 French and British warships are engaged in bombarding Pola, the Austrian naval base on the Adriatic, according to a report from Berlin via Copenhagen.

British forces have occupied Bouganville, the largest of the Solomon Islands, which since 1899 has been held by Germany.

SATURDAY.

The British battleship Formidable was sunk in the British Channel. According to an official statement at London, it is not known whether the disaster was caused by a mine or by a submarine. Only 150 members of the ship's crew of 750 men are known to have been saved.

A heavy mist is preventing all operations in Poland, according to an official announcement at Berlin.

An official statement at Vienna says the Russians have developed great activity in Bukowina and the Carpathians.

The struggle for possession of Steinbach, in Alsace, continues, the War Office at Paris claiming that the French are making progress foot by foot.

Dunkirk, on the north coast of France, was again bombarded by German aviators on Thursday. French aviators bombarded the railroad stations at Metz and Arnaville.

The belief that the year just begun will see the ending of the war was expressed by President Poincare in an address to the members of the diplomatic corps at Paris.

SUNDAY.

Four German Army officers were taken off an outbound steamer at New York on the charge of conspiring to pass passports fraudulently.

The offensive movement of the Allies in Belgium and France has been changed to defensive because the German attack in reply to the advance has strongly developed.

The French statement indicates this change of plan. It recites a series of night attacks along the front. The assaults were in great force, but the claim is made that they were repulsed.

Russia issued an "Orange" book, giving in review the happenings in the Black Sea which preceded the conflict with Turkey.

The Berlin statement of the fighting in Alsace and the Argonne conflicts with the Paris version.

The German communication says further ground has been gained in the Argonne, and specifically denies the claims of the French War Office that half of the Alsatian village of Steinbach has been captured and that the French are making a further advance there. The Paris announcement asserts that some of the territory lost to the Germans in the Argonne has been regained, and that three new lines of houses have been occupied in Steinbach.

The German military authorities say there have been no changes in the eastern campaign, except that the German attacks on the line west of Warsaw have made further progress.

With the arrival of 30 survivors of the battleship Formidable the total saved now numbers 201. The British Admiralty issued a statement saying Captain Loxley and 20 officers are probably dead.

WAR AT A GLANCE

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CAPTAIN WENT DOWN WITH SHIP

Stories Told by Survivors of the Lost Formidable.

MAGAZINE DID NOT EXPLODE

Thirty-Four Other Officers Perished With the Captain—Portsmouth Chief British Naval Station.

London.—Five hundred and seventy-nine men perished by the sinking of the British battleship Formidable in the English Channel on New Year's Day, according to the latest estimates. Of the crew of 780 men 201 were saved, a cutter, with 50 living aboard having reached land since the first casualty list was compiled.

Many of the survivors of the Formidable were landed at Brixham, Devon, others at Lyme-Regis, Dorset, which indicates that the disaster occurred at the western end of the English Channel, although the admiralty has not given the location, nor has it made a definite statement with reference to the real cause.

Survivors relate that the warship was struck above the magazine. The explosion was terrific, but the magazine was not reached. Had this also blown up the ship would have foundered without there being time to save anybody.

As the water rushed in the men on the Formidable hurried to the deck. They found that the vessel already had a heavy list to the starboard. The small boats were sent out. A cutter foundered and the men in her were drowned. A launch and a pinnace succeeded in getting away.

Albert Edward Cooper, master-at-arms, one of the survivors landed at Lyme-Regis, said the explosion occurred between 1.30 and 2.30 o'clock in the morning. When he reached the deck the ship had begun to settle on the starboard side. Boats were launched and remained near the ship to pick up survivors, but some of the boats, which stood out about 20 yards, were swamped by wreckage.

The men were all scantily clad and suffered terribly from the cold during the 26 hours occupied in reaching shore.

ANOTHER INMATE OF CITY HOME AT CAMBRIDGE, MASS., BADLY BURNED.

Cambridge, Mass.—Four deaths and the probable fatal burning of another inmate in the fire which trapped the occupants of the City Home while they were asleep was definitely established when the officials made a careful checking up of the register. Many others among the 238 inmates, mostly aged men and women, suffered severely from fright and exposure, and several were partly overcome by smoke. Police, firemen and nurses assisted them down stairways, fire escapes and ladders, and while the building was burning they were cared for by nearby residents. Later the majority of the inmates were taken to two city buildings and provided with mattresses.

BLACK HAND BY-LAWS FOUND.

Fairmont, W. Va.—The triple tragedy which occurred at Kilram among foreigners was due to a Black Hand society, it has developed. Twenty men are held in jail as witnesses. For the first time in the history of the Black Hand society, so far as can be learned here, a copy of the by-laws of the organization was discovered. It is in the possession of the county officials here. The by-laws were written in a little store account book in a code system. The book has not been fully translated, although experts are at work on it. Other murders in the last several months, including two Americans—E. M. Smallwood and E. Martin—are attributed to the Black Hand gang.

CHICAGO RAILROAD MAN APPOINTED ON INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

Washington, D. C.—Richard H. Aishton, vice-president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, has been chosen by President Wilson for the Federal Industrial Relations Commission, to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Frederic A. Delano, of Chicago, as a member of the Federal Reserve Board. Mr. Aishton has been an active railroad for many years.

HOUSE PASSES POSTAL BILL.

Washington, D. C.—The annual Postoffice Appropriation bill, carrying \$321,000,000 for the conduct of the Postoffice Department during the next fiscal year, was passed by the House. For the first time in many years four appropriation bills were disposed of in the House before the beginning of the new year in a short session.

EVANGELIST PAYS HEART BALM.

Pittsburgh.—Homer A. Rodeheaver, the evangelistic singer, announced here that he had settled for a money consideration the \$50,000 breach of promise action brought against him by Miss Georgia Jay, a Chicago stenographer. Mr. Rodeheaver refused to give the amount paid in the settlement, but it was said to be \$10,000.

THE NEWS TOLD IN PARAGRAPHS

Latest Happenings Gleaned From All Over the State.

LIVE NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Chester Business Block Suffers \$10,000 Blaze—Three Allentown Veterans Die—One Killed, Three Hurt When Sled Hits Bridge.

Thomas A. H. Hay was elected secretary of the Easton Board of Trade to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Charles A. Morrison.

Thieves paid a second visit to the home of H. E. Russell, Pomeroy, during the absence of the family. Three weeks ago while the family was in Coatesville the house was entered and many valuables stolen.

Charles C. Eckert, L. E. Carroll and Anson McVey were probably fatally injured in a grade crossing accident near East Petersburg. They were driving in a covered wagon when struck by a passenger train.

James Cassido, thirteen years old, was arrested at Lancaster, charged with robbing the mails and passing checks. He is said to have admitted having a girl accomplice, but refused to divulge her name.

Governor Tener issued a death warrant for the electrocution of James Boyd, Philadelphia, during the week of March 1, at the New State Penitentiary. This is the second warrant of the kind to be issued.

Passengers on a Pennsylvania local were routed out of their seats in Steelton to help fight a fire which started in an express car. It was put out by the aid of some cans of milk which were confiscated by the train crew.

While coasting Leo Bartholomew, of Shenandoah, six years old, ran into an automobile, fracturing his right leg and left arm. Joseph Irwin, eight years old, another coaster, was hit by a bobbed and hurled down a 25-foot embankment and probably fatally injured.

Loosing control of his sled on a steep hill Charles Lynn, seventeen, of North Berwick, failed to make a turn at a bridge and crashed head first into a fence post. He broke off the post and suffered a fractured skull, nose and lacerations of the head and body. He is not expected to live.

Thomas Lynch, aged 60, president of the H. C. Frick Coke Company since 1896, died in his home at Greensburg. He entered the employ of the coke company as a clerk in 1870. Mr. Lynch was a trustee of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, and his company was one of the first large corporations to adopt the "safety first" movement.

The annual harvest of the ice in Berks county, was started. One of the biggest crops is being taken from the dam on the County Home property. It is eight inches thick and is expected to yield 25 tons. At Friedensburg and other districts in the lower section of the county, ice average eight inches in thickness is being stored.

Edward Miller, aged nineteen years, of Trevorton, was killed in a coasting accident, and James Taylor, Arthur Brown and Carl Rusk, three other youths who were riding with him, were seriously injured, when the bobbed upon which they were riding crashed into a bridge. Miller, who was steering the sled, lost control, with the result that it crashed into an iron span on the side of the bridge.

A successful raid was made by yeomen at Emsus, when they blew open the safe of the postoffice and got away with about \$500. The plunder consisted of a little more than \$100 in cash and about \$400 in stamps. Unluckily for the thieves, Postmaster Richard W. Lobst placed the bulk of his valuables, including stamps and money order business, said to have been about \$10,000, in the vault of the Emsus Bank.

Mrs. Cassandra Haack, of York, presented to each of her children a check for \$1,000 as a Christmas gift. Regularly every Christmas she presented each with a check for \$5, but this year they received in addition to the \$5 check one for \$1,000. The children are: Mrs. Ida I. Schaele, Lebanon, Pa.; Charles F. Haack, Mrs. Minnie M. Spangler, Mrs. Clara E. Alexander, Mrs. Sadie Reigart, Mrs. Margaret Drayer, Mrs. Anna Leventis and Miss Grayce Haack, all of this city.

Three Civil War veterans died in Allentown. Daniel Bachman, retired carriage builder, who served in the One Hundred and Third Pennsylvania Volunteers, aged seventy-nine; Jacob J. Bookmiller, old-time iron worker, who served in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, aged seventy-seven, and Henry G. Wagner, who served in the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, aged seventy-five. They were long-time friends and prominent in Grand Army circles.

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