

BRITISH FLEET CLOSES IN ON FLEMISH COAST, BOMBARDING GERMANS AT WESTENDE

GERMANS CONTEST RUSSIANS' ADVANCE IN BITTER BATTLE

Reinforcements Dash Against Foe's Poland Centre—Czar Resumes Offensive in East Prussia.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 16.—The Russian offensive from the Warsaw zone is bitterly contested by the Germans, who have been reinforced and are driving desperately against the Russian centre.

All German forces have been driven from the Miawa region, the War Office announced today, and the Russian offensive against the Thorn-Soldau front has been resumed. The Germans have been thrown back across the East Prussian border, and it is believed that they are disorganized and cannot offer any resistance.

Fierce fighting has developed in the region between Lowitz and the south bank of the Bura (a tributary of the Vistula). In this circumscribed section slightly southwest of Warsaw the German army of invasion has made determined assaults against the Czar's centre. The removal of German activity began Monday and has developed into a bitter battle to gain ground.

According to official dispatches from the front, which were made public tonight at general headquarters, the Germans are forming in heavy force on the south bank of the Vistula River. This movement is reported in the vicinity of Ilow, 40 miles west of Warsaw, where several new bodies of German troops have been discovered by Russian scouts.

This movement indicates that the Germans after suffering a repulse north of Warsaw, where they were driven back to Soldau, across the East Prussian frontier, are concentrating troops for another determined dash against the Russian centre. The Russian campaign in Poland has been changed since Saturday, when the German concentrated attack between Miawa and Plock failed.

The Russian staff believes that last week's effort of Von Hindenburg was the high-water mark of the German invasion of north Poland.

It was repulsed by the accumulated Russian reserve. The Germans are now falling back, and there have been heavy rearguard engagements all day between the retreating Germans and the Russian cavalry from Miawa, across the East Prussian frontier.

MIKADO OFFERS TROOPS TO FIGHT FOR CZAR

Former Enemies to Stand by Side Against Germany.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—Emperor Yoshihito, of Japan, has offered to send Japanese troops to fight side by side with the Russians against the Germans, according to reliable reports here, and it is understood that the offer has been accepted.

Russian journals have been forbidden to publish this news, but a prominent Russian official practically confirmed it today, saying:

"I hear that the Mikado has addressed a letter to the Emperor couched in the warmest terms asking that he be granted the honor of placing his troops side by side with the glorious Russian armies against the common foe of civilization, Germany."

"The Emperor's reply was couched in corresponding terms and was in the affirmative. I am informed. Tentative plans have been made for the participation of a not inconsiderable number of Japanese soldiers in the active operations against Germany."

"Indeed, it is said that these forces are prepared to leave for Russia at once."

TURKS APOLOGIZE TO ITALY

Promise to Make Amends for Seizing British Consul.

ROME, Dec. 15.—The negotiations between Italy and Turkey over the removal of G. A. Richardson, the British Consul, from the Italian Consulate at Hodeida, Arabia, are approaching a satisfactory solution.

The Turks have returned Mr. Richardson to the Consulate and presented excuses for his removal. They also promised to punish those guilty of the breach of diplomatic relations.

POPE BLESSES THE BELGIANS

ROME, Dec. 15.—The Pope has written a letter to Cardinal Mercier, of Belgium, in which he deeply deplores the fate of that country, which he declares is the result of the greatest outrage in history.

The Pope says he shares the sorrows and hopes of the unfortunate Belgians, to whom he sends his blessings. He also exempts them from the payment of Peter's pence.

BRITISH WARSHIPS SHELL WESTENDE

Continued from Page One north, but claims decisive success in the Mazurian Lake country.

The Czar's forces, which were well toward Gracow, have been pushed back over their line of advance in Galicia, and Vienna official reports indicate a heavy battle on the River San within a day or so. Vienna has admitted the evacuation of Belgrade, but states the withdrawal was voluntary and without fighting.

Servian soil has been cleared of invading Austrians, says an official Nish statement. King Peter led his victorious troops into the old capital of Belgrade, retaken by the Serbs.

Turks have begun a massacre of Christian Greeks at Aivali, Asia Minor. Riots and pillage mark the attacks. Turkey has apologized to Italy for the seizure of British Consul Richardson at Hodeidah.

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Fleets Co-operate With Land Forces in Drive on Ostend.

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Westende lies on the road between Nieuport and Ostend, seven miles west of the latter city. The announcement of the renewal of the British warships' activity off the coast there indicates that the Allies are directing some of their chief attacks toward Ostend.

The Allies' drive at Klein Zillebeke, south of Ypres, has won a little ground, but the chief advantage gained is the driving of the formidable wedge farther into the enemy's lines and so seriously threatening his position that a German retreat at this point is confidently predicted.

North of the Aisne and in the Argonne the artillery battle continues with unabated fury, and there have been scattered infantry charges by both sides, without developing important results.

According to the reports from the front the advance of the Allies now developing is far heavier than any offensive movement assumed by the French, British and Belgian forces since von Kluck's army was "turned" on the Aisne. It is the result of a complete change of plan by Generals Joffre and French, and means that the campaign which was to have begun in the spring is now under way.

If this new movement is successful the Germans will be thrown back on their second line in Belgium, the one reaching from Bruge to Courtrai, within three weeks.

A Rotterdam dispatch says that the newspaper *La Belgique* declares that the retreat of the Germans toward prepared positions east of the Yser is confirmed. Masses of troops have been concentrated along a line embracing Bruge, Thiant and Courtrai, with general headquarters at Thielt.

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FRENCH HAVE LOST GROUND IN ALSACE



The pressure of the French right wing against the German lines between the Meuse and the Moselle is generally in the direction of Metz, but that German stronghold is so well protected by encircling forts that its investment would mean a matter of weeks, if not months. The present importance of this drive, therefore, is that it threatens the line of communication of the German force that has been in possession of St. Mihiel for the last two months. The French have also advanced eastward from a point north of St. Mihiel and have reached Deunoux in an effort to effect a junction with the force pushing north. If this junction is made, St. Mihiel will be entirely cut off.

CZAR DRIVEN TO SAN

Austrian Offensive in Galicia Continues Unabated.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Austrians have succeeded in again crossing the Carpathians, and, according to their accounts, are driving the Russian left back toward the River San. This Austrian army, assisted by German reinforcements, has undertaken the difficult task of forcing the Russians to withdraw from in front of Cracow and also of relieving Przemyel. The Austrians apparently have met with at least partial success in the former project.

EX-PREMIER'S SON DEAD

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Max Barthelemy, a son of ex-Premier Barthelemy, of France, died yesterday from wounds received fighting at Thann. He was only 15 years old and had served since the first days of the war, being assigned at his own request to a place at the front rather than on the General Staff.

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RUSSIAN LOSSES 150,000 IN POLAND, BERLIN ASSERTS

Official Review Also Stresses Taking 80,000 Prisoners—Progress of Warsaw Campaign Satisfactory, It Declares.

BERLIN, Dec. 16.—Russian armies in Poland have lost 150,000 men, including 80,000 prisoners, who have been brought to Germany. This official German estimate was made public here today in a review of the military operations issued at the War Office.

Referring to the Russian losses, the statement said:

"We are able to estimate safely the total Russian losses in Poland. They amount to the total of 150,000 men, including 80,000 prisoners, who meanwhile have been transported to Germany by rail."

The official review also stated that the total number of unwounded Russian prisoners taken by the Germans and Austrians is 475,000.

It asserts that the Germans are making satisfactory progress in Poland and continues:

"Latest reports from the German and Austrian commanders mention Lowitz as the centre of the operation. These indicate a frontal advance against the Russians behind the Bura River.

"Important news comes from western Galicia, where the Austrians are contin-

uing their offensive. The success of this movement is apparent in that they have compelled the Russians to retreat from the Carpathians and forced them northward.

"The Russians realize that further successes of the Austrians are likely to endanger their whole wing, which seems to be crowded together."

The review confirms Servian claims of victories over the Austrians, but says the troops of the dual monarchy are being reformed for a new offensive.

It declares the situation in the western theatre of war is favorable to them, they having repulsed attacks by the French-Belgian troops.

"The Belgian army is virtually a 'negligible quantity,'" it continues. "They are suffering from typhoid and cholera as well. The Belgians have lost, since the beginning of the war, 25,000 killed, 52,000 wounded, 25,000 who have been brought to Germany as prisoners and 32,000 interned in Holland."

KAISER'S CONDITION GRAVE

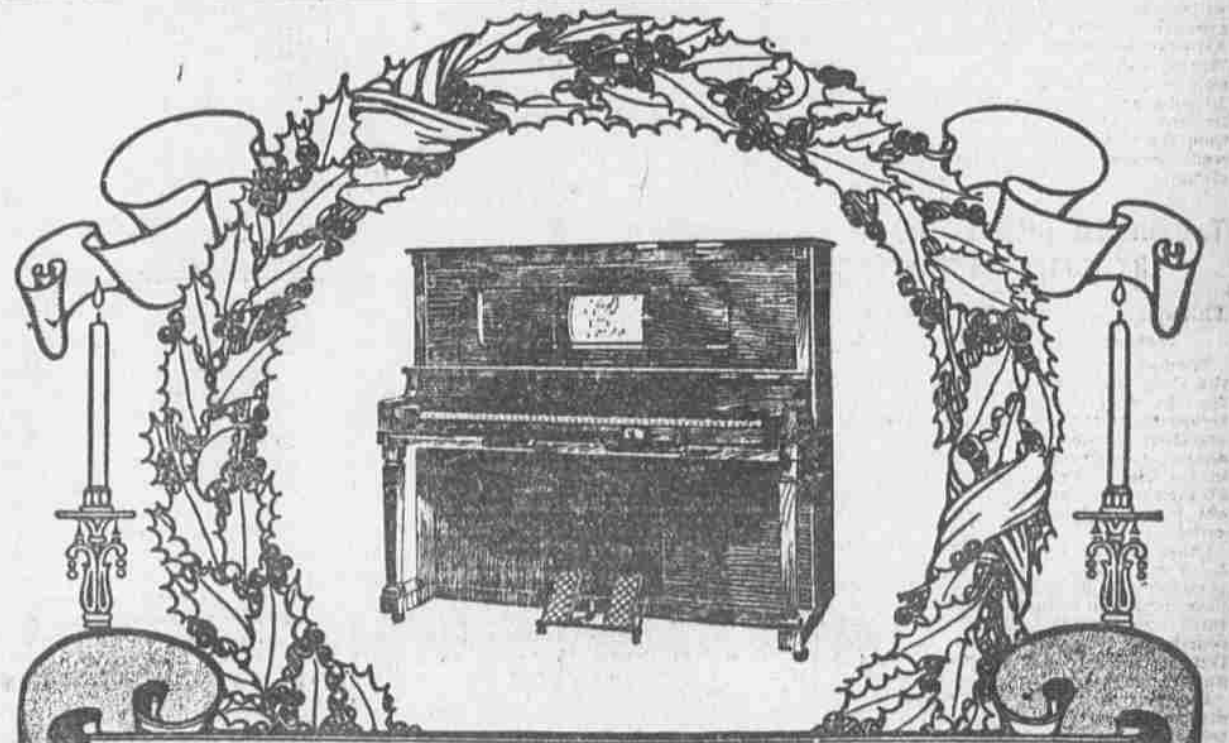
Crown Prince Detained at Bedside Because of Condition. GENEVA, Dec. 15.—A Berlin dispatch confirms the reports that the condition of the Kaiser is serious. The Crown Prince for the present is remaining in Berlin.

TURKS MASSACRE GREEKS

Riot at Pillage Terrorizes Christians at Aivali. ATHENS, Dec. 15.—Greek Christians are being massacred by Turks at Aivali, Asia Minor. Houses have been pillaged in the suburb and shops of the town itself have been set on fire. Women and girls have been attacked by the Turks.

Aivali is a town of 20,000 people on the Gulf of Adramyti. Most of its inhabitants are Greeks.

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