

GERMAN HOSTS SWEEP RUSSIANS BACKWARD IN THIRD MIGHTY DRIVE UPON WARSAW

GERMAN SAPPERS BLOW UP ARGONNE TRENCH OF ALLIES

Infantry Attack Following Mine Explosion Fails. French Report Gains South of Belgian Frontier.

PARIS, Dec. 18.

All counter attacks made by the Germans in Belgium have been repulsed, and south of the Franco-Belgian frontier numerous trenches have been captured by the French, according to an official statement issued here this afternoon. In the Argonne, however, the Germans have succeeded in blowing up one of the French trenches with a mine.

The French War Office declares, however, that the attack of the German infantry, which followed this successful operation of the sappers was repulsed.

The French are consolidating the positions they have taken east of Arras and are bombarding the German lines in the eastern suburbs of St. Laurent (roughly three miles from Arras). The French forces which reached the western suburbs of St. Laurent took possession of the houses and hand-to-hand fighting has been in progress in the streets there. The German artillery is bombarding both St. Laurent and Arras. The fighting in this region lies in the basin of the River Scarpe, along the Arras-Douai highway and the Arras-Lens railway.

Attack and counter-attack are in progress around Bapaume and Peronne, where the French are increasing their pressure against the Germans with the use of fresh troops. All along the line British and French detachments are interspersed, the troops of one nationality holding a part of the line adjoining that section held by the other.

On the eastern end of the line there is a severe struggle for artillery supremacy.

The Germans holding the Belgian coast have given the Belgian residents permission to flee, following the death of a number of non-combatants by the bombardment of the town of Lomme. Hitherto able-bodied Belgian men had been held by the Germans and compelled by the invaders to help dig trenches.

The Dunkirk correspondent of the Amsterdam Tifd says that in the aggressive action of the Belgians and the French, north of Nieuport, which led to the occupation of the line west of Lomme, the attack of the British fleet diverted the German coast troops so that these could neither assist their main force or oppose attacks by land from the south.

When Westende was violently bombarded the enemy tried to oppose the British attack from the sea by a counter movement toward the inland, out of reach of the naval guns in the environs of St. Georges, between Nieuport and Mannekenveere. The Allies attacked the Germans on the front at Zillebeke and Wykesteke.

The Germans have lost many prisoners and a large number of dead are piled in the trenches.

GERMAN INVADERS NEARER TO WARSAW

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urgent necessity for re-formation of the battle front west of Warsaw.

The French War Office this afternoon admits that in the Argonne one of the Allies' trenches was blown up by a German mine, but declares that the attack following this action was repulsed. At other points on the line, the French claim the advantage in the fighting, and south of the Belgian frontier numerous German trenches have been captured.

Berlin, on the contrary, reports that the French attacks between La Bassée and Arras have failed and that the battle near Nieuport, while not yet ended, is favorable to the Germans.

Two British destroyers were sunk by the Germans in the chase following the raid on English coast cities, according to a Berlin official statement. The British Admiralty denies the reported loss of two warships. Reports of a second raid have stirred England. A squadron has been sighted headed toward England, it is said.

GERMANS DRIVE ENEMY TOWARD WALLS OF WARSAW

Von Hindenburg's Legions Hammer Retreating Russians on Vistula.

BERLIN, Dec. 18.—Warsaw is in imminent peril, as Von Hindenburg's army, flushed with a succession of victories beginning with the capture of Lodz a fortnight ago, advances on its objective. The next big battle will be fought before the walls of Warsaw.

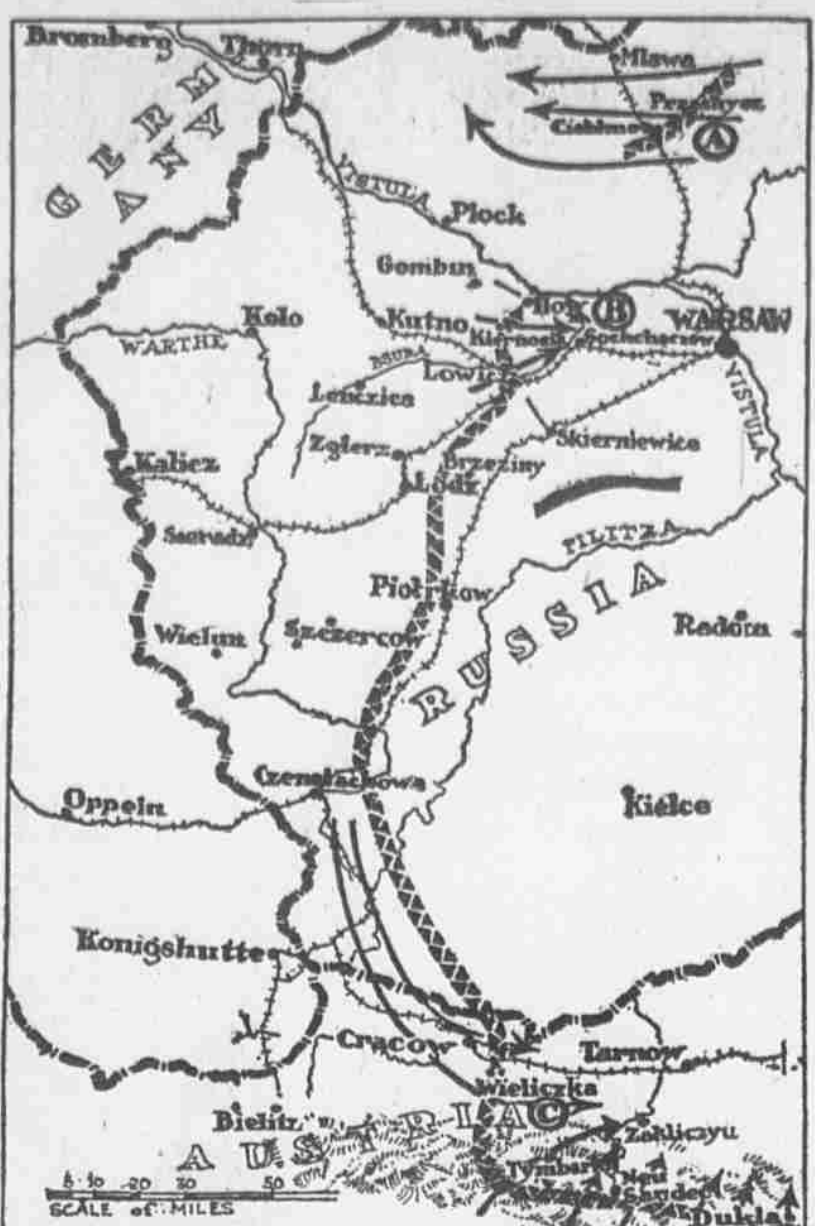
Emperor Wilhelm has been informed by Field Marshal von Hindenburg by telephone that the victory of the Germans in Poland is complete. The German commander transmitted the first news of the Russian defeat to the Emperor yesterday and today he sent further details.

Admission has been made by the Russian War Office of a "slight retirement," but this is in reality a definite withdrawal to their chief base, Warsaw.

South of the Bzura River the routed foe is in hasty flight and its next stand must be made before Warsaw. The German army of invasion is less than 25 miles from its objective.

To the south the German forces, joined with the Austrians, have continued their offensive, while in Galicia the Teutonic allies are sweeping the foe toward its own borders.

VON HINDENBURG'S MOVES IN SWEEPING POLISH VICTORY



Movements which led up to and may have caused the retreat of the Russians along the whole front, as reported by Marshal von Hindenburg, are these: After the occupation of Lodz by the Germans and before the present battles the armies were drawn up on a front from Ilow to the Dukla Pass, as indicated by the heavy line in the map. While the Russians were driving back General Franco's two army corps which had penetrated from Mlawka as far as Przasnysz and Ciechanow (A), Austro-German armies concentrated on the flanks of the main Russian army south of the Vistula. Russian reinforcements were rushed to the forces threatening Warsaw on a line from Ilow to Lodz. Then by fierce attacks the Germans drove their line to Sochaczew (B), a gain of 10 miles, bringing them within 30 miles of Warsaw. The Russian report told of this fight being on the line from Sochaczew to Kienozia, which would be at right angles with the Ilow-Lodz line, and might mean that the Germans swung around the Russian right flank. In the meantime the Austrians had resumed the offensive in West Galicia by pouring troops through the passes of the Carpathians. The first intimation of this movement came on December 9 in a statement from Vienna that the Russians had been driven out of Wieliczka, within gunshot of Cracow, the high tide of the Russian advance. On the 13th a victory at Limanovo was reported and the occupation of Neu Sandec and the following day it was declared that Dukla, at the entrance to the Dukla Pass, had been retaken. Yesterday Bochnia was taken and last night's announcement claimed an advance to Zakliczka. The Russians, if defeated on both flanks, must have started the general retirement reported in Vienna and Berlin. If they are retreating it is probable their next stand will be made behind the Vistula River.

FRENCH AIR FLEET DROPS BOMBS UPON TWO GERMAN CITIES

Metz and Strassburg Attacked by Eight Daring Raiders—One Machine Wrecked and Aviator Killed.

PARIS, Dec. 18.

News of a daring raid by French aviators into German territory, in which they bombarded the great German fortresses of Metz and Strassburg, reached here today. There were eight aviators in the squadron that set out from Toul. Three confined their operations to Metz, while the others proceeded to Strassburg. Fifteen bombs were dropped upon the German forts at Metz, and considerable damage is said to have been done to two forts there. The aviators, operating from a height of 4000 feet, obtained

"good results," they report. All withdrew safely.

The five who went to Strassburg were driven off by aerial guns operated by the Germans. One of the machines is said to have been wrecked and the aviator killed. The others escaped and returned to Toul.

KAISER NOW WELL ENOUGH TO RETURN TO THE FRONT

Throat Still Troubles Emperor Slightly—Condition Satisfactory.

By KARL H. VON WIEGAND

BERLIN, Dec. 18.

Kaiser Wilhelm is planning to return to the front within a few days. Whether he will go to the eastern or western battlefield has not yet been determined. I learned today the condition of his Majesty from Minister von Treutler, of the Kaiser's personal suite.

"I am quite satisfied with the Kaiser's condition and the progress he has made during his brief illness," said the Minister. He has received and heard reports from the various Government heads daily. He has had to be somewhat careful of his voice, but the hardships from which he suffered has now been greatly relieved.

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KHEDIVE VOWS WAR AS BRITISH SNUGGLE EGYPT UNDER WING

Protectorate Established in African Province, With Sir Arthur Mahon Commissioner—Khedive Denies Naming of Successor.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Foreign Office issued the following statement:

"In view of the state of war arising out of the action of Turkey, Egypt is placed under the protection of his Britannic Majesty and will henceforth constitute a British protectorate. The suzerainty of Turkey is thus terminated.

"His Majesty's Government will adopt all the measures necessary for the defense of Egypt and the protection of its inhabitants and interests.

"The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Colonel Sir Arthur Henry McMahon, who has been Foreign Secretary to the Government of India since 1911, as his Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt."

Egypt, although nominally under the suzerainty of Turkey, has been practically under British control for many years. Railways, telegraphs and other improvements were made by the British and through their efforts the Suez Canal was opened in 1869. Dissatisfaction ensued over the administration of financial affairs and in 1912 representatives of French and British bondholders of the canal established dual control over the finances, with a British and French representative in the Cabinet of the Khedive.

The latter was soon dismissed by order of the Sultan of Turkey, and Tewfik Pasha was appointed to succeed him. In 1913 England and France reestablished the dual control, which was continued for two years, during which much progress was made. A mutiny among the Egyptians started, which the Sultan failed to suppress. France and Italy declined to join England in armed intervention, and the latter country subdued the insurrection alone.

Since then England has been on the verge of war with Turkey on one or two occasions over Egypt, but the Sultan always backed down at the last moment. The British occupation began in 1914 and the garrisons have never been withdrawn. England and France reached an agreement by which the latter was compensated for her withdrawal from Egypt by more territory in Morocco. This put British rule practically on a solid basis at Cairo.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The German Press Bureau in New York gave out the following statement yesterday:

"The Constantinople correspondent of the Frankfurter Zeitung reports the following utterances of the Khedive Abbas, whose return to Egypt was prevented by the British Government:

"I regard the situation calmly and with absolute confidence. England prevented me from returning to my country without cause and without any right whatsoever. I indignantly refused any further offers. The most sacred duties determined me to remain in Constantinople, near the sultan of Egypt."

"Today Turkey and England are at war. A mighty expedition against Egypt is being prepared in order to put an end to the temporary occupation of this country by England and to re-establish the state of affairs which existed before 1914. I do not doubt for a moment the complete success of this expedition.

"On numerous occasions, and especially during the Balkan wars, Egypt proved her faithful devotion to the caliphate. Egyptian troops also found the opportunity to prove their loyalty to the Turkish empire on the occasion of the episode of Akaba ten years ago. When the English wanted to change the boundary there by force the Egyptian officers declared unanimously that they would never march against the sultan of Turkey."

"I am now preparing to accompany the Ottoman army on its march to Egypt. With God's help I will soon see the success of the plan."

"As for the rumors about the appointment of Prince Hussein Kemal by the English, I decline to believe they are true. His appointment would be illegal. I have left a regent in Egypt, whose legal authority was recently limited by me to the carrying out of the current affairs."

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WAR MOVES SHOW WARSAW IN HOUR OF GRAVEST PERIL

Von Hindenburg's Sweeping Victory on Vistula Threatens Polish Capital More Seriously Than at Any Time of German Campaign, Expert Declares.

By STANLEY WASHBURN

Field Marshal von Hindenburg, at the head of a great German army, suddenly reinforced, is advancing on the Polish capital.

The Germans are within about 30 miles of Warsaw on the northwest. They have brought superior forces against the Russian center. Unless the German field marshal can take Warsaw within a week, however, I believe all hope of his doing so will be gone forever.

A concentration of fresh Russian troops will prevent German success if Von Hindenburg can be held off a few days, perhaps a few hours.

At this moment, in spite of the rapid advance of the German, the best sources of information within Warsaw lead me to believe that the city will withstand the onslaught.

VON HINDENBURG'S GREAT FEAT.

Von Hindenburg has shown military talent of the highest order in the method and manner of his attack and in his extraordinary energy in concentrating troops at the vital point in spite of Russia's superiority of numbers.

He is greatly aided by the network of railroads on the German frontier behind the German army, while the poor and sparse railroads of Russian Poland make Russian reinforcements slow.

The country between Warsaw and the present battle front is, however, admirably defensive ground, and is now strongly fortified. There are innumerable lines of trenches between Skieniewice and Warsaw.

Bresny, I am reasonably sure, is in Russian hands. Piotrkow is still held by the Russians. Also Kielce. A line drawn through these towns would approximate the Russian line today. The Germans controlling everything in middle Russian Poland to the westward.

The banks of Warsaw profess confidence in the ability of the Government to save the city. They have adopted no measures for the safety of their treasures. GERMANS SACRIFICED MANY MEN.

The Germans undoubtedly lost at least 100,000 men. There was much suffering among their wounded on account of the extreme cold. For several days the mercury has been near zero. A cold wind blew from the north, and the Germans are said to be extremely strong in artillery, especially heavy field guns.

Some German prisoners taken near Lodz, state they came from the French battle front. They believe the Kaiser ordered that Warsaw should be taken at all costs.

"In the west," they say, "we have time to settle our business later. Our task now is Poland."

North of Lodz the Russian and German trenches are said to be only 100 paces apart. Continuous German attacks at Sochaczew, in the center of the Russian position, on the lower Bzura River, began the German onslaught against the Russian center.

The Russian army has been informed today that the Allies in the west have begun a general advance. This news in Poland overshadowed all other news even from Russia or East Prussia.

I understand three additional German corps from the west have reached the German armies in Russia, making nine army corps received by Marshal von Hindenburg within the past month.

Thanks to new reinforcements, the Germans have been able to send two corps to Hungary to help out east of Cracow, retaining about 20 corps on the Polish front.

FIFTH BRITISH SHIP SUNK

Continued from Page One

ment declares another disappeared badly damaged. The batteries at Hartlepool were silenced, the gas works destroyed and three fires could be seen in the town. The statement admits that the German cruisers were struck by shells from the British coast batteries, but says little damage was done.

The statement declares: After approaching the English coast our cruisers were unsuccessfully attacked by four English torpedo boats. One was destroyed and another disappeared in a severely damaged condition.

The batteries at Hartlepool were silenced. The gas works were destroyed and several explosions were heard. Three large fires in town could be observed from our ships.

We received a few hits from the coast batteries, but suffered very little damage. Elsewhere another English destroyer was sunk.

Claims made by the Germans that two British warships had been sunk in the naval engagement that followed the German raid were emphatically denied at the Admiralty today. It was admitted that "some slight damage" had been done to the unprotected cruiser Patrol and destroyer Doon and that 20 members of their crews had been killed or injured, but the Admiralty stated that the damage was so slight that the boats would not have to be retired for repairs.

CZAR'S ARMY "REGROUPING," ADMISSION OF PETROGRAD

Official Journal Virtually Admits Reverse on Vistula.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 18.

"Persistent attacks by great masses of German troops have compelled a regrouping of our army west of Warsaw," says the Army Messenger today. "The enemy is suffering heavy losses in his offensive against the Kasimowski-Teresin-Skieniewice front, where our artillery is repulsing his massed attacks."

(This statement by the official organ of the Russian military establishment confirms the German announcement that the Czar's troops have retreated. Kasimowski is on the Vistula, 36 miles from Warsaw, and directly across the river from the fortress of Novo Georgievsk. Teresin is 22 miles west of Warsaw, and Skieniewice is 3 miles from the Polish capital. This defensive line of the Russians before Warsaw is about 55 miles long, running from northeast to southwest, and is behind the Bzura River, which the Germans have been trying to cross for several weeks.)

The Army Messenger states further that the German army, which is being steadily reinforced, numbered at least 750,000 men.

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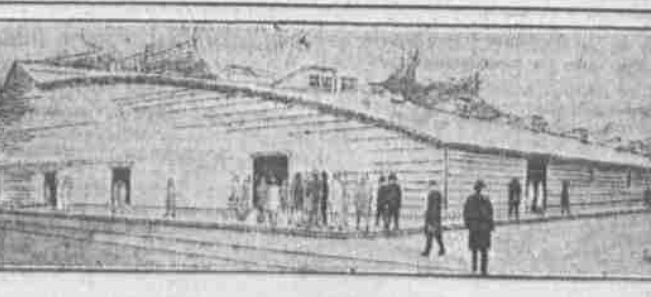
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