

WARSAW HEARS THUNDER OF GERMAN GUNS AS INVADING HOST MASSES FOR BLOW

WARSAW TREMBLES AS GUNS OF KAISER BATTER CZAR'S LINE

Fierce Battle Rages Along Bzura River as Germans Drive at Russian Centre.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 21. Great German columns are trying to batter a way through the Russian defensive positions west of Warsaw to open a route for an advance upon the capital of Poland. The sound of the cannonade can be heard in Warsaw, but it is officially asserted here that the Germans' advance toward that city has been so seriously checked that it cannot be resumed for some time. The capture of Lowicz puts the army of invasion in a strengthened position directly west of Warsaw, and gives partial control of the Bzura River along which a fierce battle now is raging. To the south first encounters are under way on the Rawa River. The Russian army defending Warsaw has completed the formation of its new line before the Polish capital. Only a battle of enormous proportions will permit the Germans to break through. The forces of Grand Duke Nicholas are declared to number more than 1,000,000 men and the entire Russian line has been strengthened. Reinforcements which have been hurried into Poland have enabled Grand Duke Nicholas to lengthen this line defending Warsaw into a continuous battle front from the Vistula to the Pilsna river. The people of Warsaw are suffering as a result of the battle raging almost at their doors. German aviators in aeroplanes and Zeppelins have bombarded the city three times within a week, killing 42 persons and injuring many more. Supplies of food in Warsaw are giving out and hundreds are leaving the city. All the available trains are being used to transport Russian troops to the front beyond Warsaw, and this has made it impossible to replenish the dwindling food supplies there.

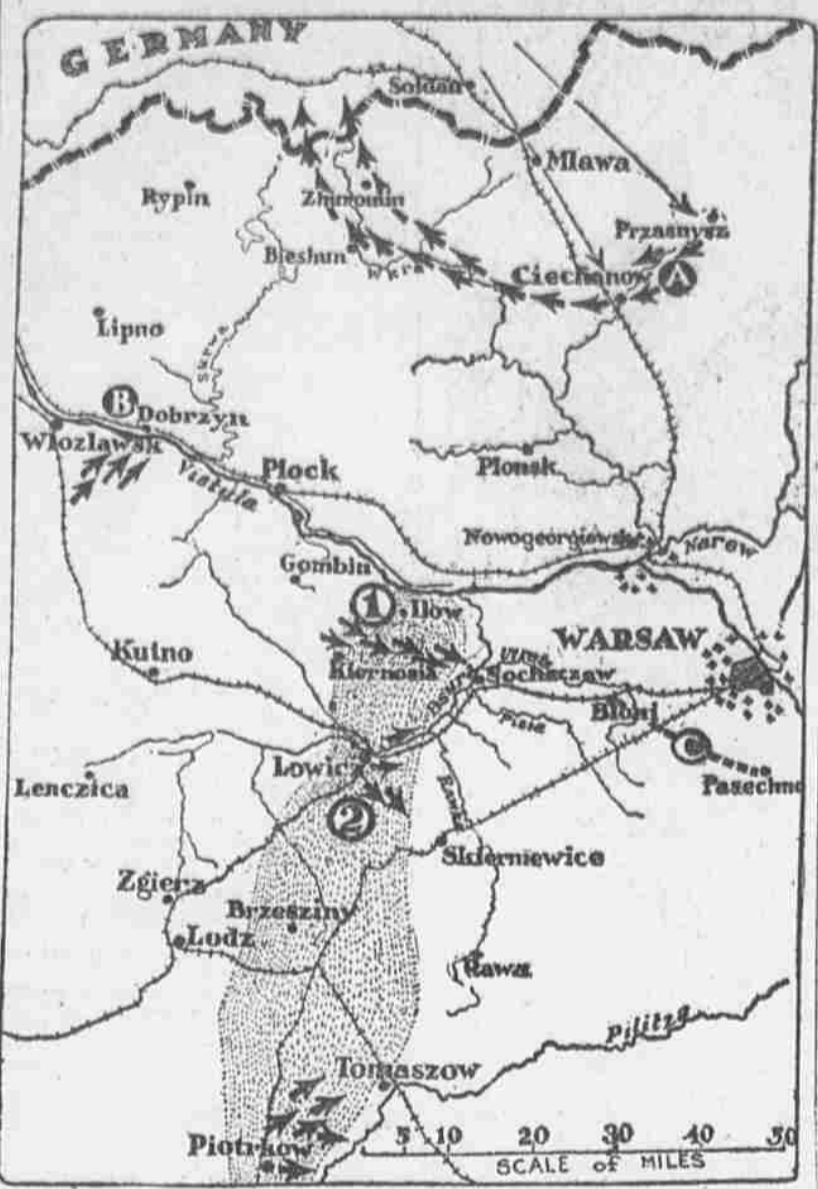
GERMANS SEIZE RAILWAY KEY TO WARSAW, IS REPORT

Capture of Skierniewice Closes Route to Czar's Reinforcements. BERLIN, Dec. 21. The capture of Skierniewice, an important railroad centre of Poland, 40 miles from Warsaw, by German troops is reported in a dispatch received from Breslau today. This town is a junction point for three railroads, the lines running to Warsaw, Lodz and Lowicz. Its capture shows that the Germans have advanced 20 miles since taking Lodz, Skierniewice being that distance from the Polish manufacturing city.

ALLIES GAIN ON Foe's RIGHT

Continued from Page One. Artillery assaults so heavy that the cannonading is audible in Warsaw, the strongly reinforced German army of invasion is actively battering its way through the lines of defense. These have been constantly strengthened by fresh troops from the interior, and both along the Bzura and Rawa Rivers are stemming the German tidal wave. Capture of Lowicz, announced at the German army headquarters in Poznan and admitted in Petrograd dispatches, affords Von Hindenburg a vantage point for driving his wedge upon the Polish capital. From Breslau is reported the capture of Skierniewice, an important railway junction for Warsaw, Lodz and Lowicz. German possession of the latter two cities and the strategic junction point of Skierniewice, effectively closes the route for Russian reinforcements from the south. In South Poland the Austro-German contingent has pushed beyond Piotrkow, while in Galicia their announced pursuit of the retreating Russian column is reported by Vienna as vigorous. Fierce onslaughts on the Czar's army engaged in the siege of Przemyśl has reduced the danger to that beleaguered fortress. For three days two Russian corps have been hammered by a force of Austrians coming across the Carpathians at Lupkow Pass near Sanok. Vienna announces that the force besieging Przemyśl is at a low ebb of fighting efficiency on account of a lack of supplies and men. Petrograd reports a halt of the German advance and fierce fighting for possession of the Bzura River and, as well, that the Germans have failed in all attempts to pass the Vistula. Turkish attacks in the Van region, Caucasus, were repulsed by the Russian forces, inflicting heavy losses. Bombardment of the Dardanelles forts has begun. The allied fleet, probably 40 vessels, is engaged in the shelling, which commenced Saturday.

CZAR'S NEW BATTLE FRONT FOR DEFENSE OF WARSAW



Some idea of what has really happened in the eastern battle front can now be obtained from the guarded official statements of Petrograd, Berlin and Vienna. It appears that there has not been such a great German victory as Berlin went wild over on Thursday, but there has been an important Russian reverse and retirement to a new line of defense. Petrograd frankly told Tuesday how the Czar's troops had been forced back along the line from Kiernosia to Sochazew (1), to within about 30 miles of Warsaw. Other reports told of a great German concentration south of the Vistula which evidently proved too strong for the Russians in this vicinity. Petrograd also said that a realignment of the Czar's armies was under way. On Friday the Germans supplied the information that they had occupied Lowicz (2) and the Austrians on Thursday said that Piotrkow (3) had been taken by storm. These announcements fitted in well with the claim of a general Russian retreat, but they also showed the Russians had left sufficient rearwards to hold back pursuers for from two to three days. The shaded portion of the map shows the German advances. Now Berlin and Petrograd together tell of the new line. The Russians hold the lower Bzura River past Sochazew. There is no evidence that they have given up Skierniewice. Then their line runs in front of Rawa where, the Germans say, they are taking up a strong position. German and Austrian reports then carry the Russian line on almost a straight line south along the Nheida and Dunajec Rivers to the foothills of the Carpathians. It is on this line that the new battle is now developing. Other features of the recent fighting are shown by the letters. (A) represents the German attempts to descend on Warsaw from the north which was beaten west by the Russians and then across the Prussian frontier. (B) shows a fresh German attempt in this territory by way of Wiozlawski. The Russians have foiled an attempt to cross the Vistula and may launch an attack against the rear of the German forces facing Warsaw. (C) shows the nearest point of German approach to Warsaw—not in this campaign, but in that of October and November.

ITALIANS DENOUNCE AUSTRIA AS KING HONORS VON BUELOW

Restoration of Adriatic Ports Demanded by Rioters. ROME, Dec. 21.—Troops subdued riotous patriots who tried to turn the anniversary of the death of the Irradientist leader, Oberdank, yesterday into a violent demonstration against Austria. The rioters vociferously demanded restoration to Italy of Trieste and the other Adriatic ports. In contrast, King Victor Emmanuel received with high honors, Prince von Buelow, formerly German Chancellor, the new German Ambassador here, whose mission, it is supposed, is to induce Italy to join her former allies in the war. Oberdank was executed for his plot to assassinate Emperor Franz Josef of Austria in Trieste, 1892.

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ALLIES SHELL OTTOMAN PORTS ON DARDANELLES

Forty Warships Pound at Aegean-Marmora Defenses. LONDON, Dec. 21. An Athens dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company reports that the allied fleet bombarded the interior forts of the Dardanelles on Saturday. "Forty British and French warships are gathered outside (name deleted by censor), with the evident intention of forcing their way through. "This, however, will be impossible as the fortifications have been greatly strengthened and the water is thickly strewn with mines. "The fact that French warships were part of the fleet, mentioned in this dispatch, was regarded as strong evidence that the point off which the warships were gathered was the Dardanelles.

KAISER OFF FOR THE FRONT

Will Spend Christmas Day With Forces in Field. BERLIN, Dec. 21. Kaiser Wilhelm has returned to the front. An official statement today declares that his Majesty has been completely restored to health and has left Berlin to join his army in the field. Reports state that the Kaiser was accompanied to the front by the Ministers of War, Marine and Foreign Affairs. The return of the heads of the Government departments to the field headquarters suggests that the Kaiser intends to remain at the front for some time after spending Christmas with his forces.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Despite the official announcement, there are still doubts that the Kaiser has completely recovered," says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam. "The doctors strongly opposed his departure from Berlin, but the chief of the military department insisted that he must spend Christmas at the front and encourage the troops. "The Kaiser acquiesced and left the capital pale and ill amid absolute silence and without any demonstrations."

CZAR HONORS AERIAL RAIDER

PETROGRAD, Dec. 21.—Emperor Nicholas has conferred a military decoration upon a Russian aviation officer, who made a daring flight over Stallupoenen, East Prussia, and destroyed, with bombs the railroad station there and a large section of the railroad used for transporting German troops.

BRITISH TARS BREAKFASTED BEFORE ENGAGING ENEMY

Went Into Action With Full Stomachs and Clean Faces. BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 21. Prospect of a fight to the death with Admiral von Spee's fleet didn't stop British tars from washing up their faces and hands and getting a hearty breakfast before they stood by their guns. They sighted the Germans—and then breakfast. What happened to the Germans is now history. Admiral Sturdee told the intimate little details of his famous sea fight in a speech here. "We were grimy from coaling when the Germans were sighted approaching," he said. "I made the signal to get up steam. Then we had breakfast. Everybody washed up. The British were fresh and clean and ready for the fight by the time we began to get close. We divided our squadron. Then the pursuit began. It was a pursuit, because when the enemy found they were up against it they made off. We steamed away after them at 20 knots. It was six hours before we came within range. Then the Germans saw there was no escape. They turned and accepted the inevitable. We sunk the flagship Scharhorst, at 1 o'clock, and the last of their squadron to participate in the engagement at 8 o'clock. This was the Leipzig. The Glasgow sank her. The Dresden got away." "Providence gave us the opportunity," the Admiral concluded. "We had only a small fleet and had been in the Falklands only 24 hours. The Germans went down bravely with their colors flying."

RUSSIANS WIN IN CAUCASUS

Turk Attack Near Van Repulsed With Heavy Loss. PETROGRAD, Dec. 21.—"An engagement with considerable Turkish forces near Van is taking a course favorable to our troops," says a dispatch received from the Russian commander in the Caucasus. "A night attack by Turks near the village of Alagezza was repulsed with great loss."

ANOTHER BRITISH SUPERDREADNOUGHT SUNK, SAYS REPORT

Thunderer Wrecked in North Sea by Torpedo or Mine, According to Word Brought to New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A report that the British dreadnought Thunderer was sunk in the North Sea on November 7, by coming into contact with a mine or being hit by a torpedo, was brought here by George Rottweiler, of Chicago, a passenger on the steamship St. Louis from Liverpool. According to Rottweiler, the sinking of the dreadnought was witnessed by eight men, members of the crew of a small Swedish sailing ship called the Seaford, that put into Liverpool with survivors from the dreadnought on board. "These men were taken in charge by British officers and were kept under surveillance at an out-of-the-way sailors' mission," said Mr. Rottweiler. "I heard of the report in a round-about way, and through a friend, I managed to talk with one of the crew. He told me that the Thunderer blew up and sank in full view of himself and his mates on the Seaford. The crew hastened to the scene, and a dozen of the men were picked up from the water."

Another passenger stated that it was thought to be the German submarine U-52 that sank the Thunderer, as well as the Audacious. Regarding the latter vessel, he said that the U-52, subsequently sunk by British destroyers, discharged two torpedoes into the Audacious, one before the Olympic took her in tow, and later the second, which struck the Audacious in the stern, while the Olympic was trying to tow her. The Olympic, he stated, then cast off.

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The Thunderer was launched in January, 1911. She has a displacement of 22,500 tons, is 344 feet long and has a complement of 900 men. Her armament consists of 10 13.5-inch, 16 4-inch and 43-pound guns and three torpedo tubes. Another rumor brought back by the St. Louis was that the British steamship Earl of Aberdeen, between Dundee and Hull, had blunderingly sunk a British submarine, and that the captain of the Earl of Aberdeen had been imprisoned. The Maritime Register fails to record the name of the British steamship mentioned.

BALKAN ALLIES INVADE AUSTRIA FROM THE SOUTH

Serbs and Montenegrins, Refitted by Spoils, March on Sarajevo. LONDON, Dec. 21. The Serbian and Montenegrin armies again have joined hands after the defeat of the Austrians who invaded Serbia, and are now making their second advance toward Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia. The two armies, the supplies of which have been replenished by captures from the Austrians, have formed a junction near Vitehrad, which the Montenegrins have occupied. They expect to be before Sarajevo within three or four days.

\$200,000,000 ITALIAN LOAN

ROME, Dec. 21.—A royal decree authorizes the issue of a loan of 1,000,000,000 lire (\$200,000,000) at 4 1/2 per cent. The issue will be redeemable in 25 years and will be issued at 97. Subscriptions will be opened in January.

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