

WAR DID NOT STOP FOR HOLIDAY

CHRISTMAS DAY IN ALSACE WAS A DAY OF WARFARE

Bombardment Continued and Unofficial Truce Was Not Observed by the Men Back of the French Guns.

TOO BUSY TO LOITER OVER THEIR GIFTS

Churches in Vicinity of Firing Line, Held Religious Services Which Some of the Soldiers Attended.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
[William Philip Simms of the United Press was the only American correspondent permitted to visit on Christmas day, the French front in Alsace, where at present, the heaviest fighting in Europe is in progress. Only one other correspondent, the official representative of all the English papers, won the coveted permission. Simms' story follows:]
[By Wm. Philip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN ALSACE, Dec. 27.—Under an abominable, warm drizzle and with thawing snow, except on the peaks and high places, the oddest and most impressive Christmas in Alsace has ever known has come and gone. The world has witnessed few more dramatic yuletides than in this coveted corner of the war.

While soldiers from the lines forgot the birthday of Jesus, grimly calculating ranges in a ceaseless artillery duel and scotchy weaving over their plumes, happy Alsatian families, a thousand yards in the rear, dressed Christmas trees and sang old time carols, happy over their return to France.

While enormous munitions columns, heedless alike of Christmas and Christmas eve, in the ceaseless drizzle, tolled across the Jura and Vosges mountains, crowds packed the cathedrals at midnight mass, praying for the new-come armies under the banners of France.

While the great pipe organs trumpeted "La Deliverance" and "Le Noel" by Adam, guns on Hartmannswellerkopf boomed an accompaniment like the roar of distant surf.

Belasco never staged anything as dramatic as this.

On Christmas eve, I watched the bombardment of German positions north of Altkirch. Through the range-finder, the houses of the city seemed only across the street. The public square was distinctly visible. It was deserted save for the passage of a few vehicles of German soldiers scurrying across, eager to get under cover before the drizzle recommenced. This was the only place where the Germans were always visible.

"That last shot was beautiful, magnificent—a bull's eye to the hair," an officer was saying over the telephone to the distant batteries, as we entered the observation post.

While the French guns continued hurling Christmas gifts of high explosive toward the Germans, some one in the party quoted the "peace on earth, good will toward men," to a young French officer, a graduate of the St. Cyr military school in the month when the war began, but now a veteran captain, decorated with the war cross and legion of honor.

"You think man-killing and Christmas anachronisms?" he smiled.

"Well, Americans thought perhaps an unofficial truce would be observed," was suggested.

"It was a celestial army, not an infernal one."

"I never heard of a sugar cargo bursting into flames. I think German agents started the Inchmooch fire by mixing a white chemical with the sugar."

The finding of traces of chlorate of potash near other suspicious ship fires, caused the authorities to investigate the theory that the chemical bombs or combustion caused other recent ship fires.

The federal jury investigating various phases of the alleged German propaganda was expected to report today, returning several indictments.

dividual that first proclaimed the doctrine of 'peace on earth, good will toward men,' 1915 years ago," he said. "Certainly, it was the world's most important proclamation. Today the French army is fighting to uphold it. We do not stop fighting on Christmas, because we are fighting for Christmas—for Kris Kringle—for all he represents—for the right to live without the maled fist forever poised over our heads—for the principle good will between neighbors—for the right to enjoy Santa Claus in our homes without danger.

"It was Germany that violated both the spirit and the letter of the law quoted by St. Luke and France and the allies will not stop fighting until they punish her."

In the meantime the guns barked on. The men at the front—either were too busy or were not inclined to observe Christmas. They received boxes of delicacies and other gifts from the government, from their homes or from organizations, opened them casually and emptied the contents into their pockets or elsewhere. Then they immediately resumed the occupation of war.

Our party attended midnight mass in an Alsatian town near Hartmannswellerkopf. The rule not to roam about after 9 p. m. was suspended for the night throughout that portion of Alsace occupied by the French. All the villages had Christmas celebrations with trees in public places and gifts for the children. The cathedral was packed with women, children and soldiers. The organist was Husard, one of the best known musicians in France, formerly first violinist in the Paris opera house, now a draagoon. The chief soloist, a blacksmith in times of peace, is a sergeant. The chorus was made up entirely of troopers. There were three generals, one commanding an army, in the audience.

As the chimes pealed midnight, the organ burst into "Christians, 'Tis the Sacred Hour of Deliverance." Then the soldier choir chorused: "He is Born, the Divine Infant."

While the congregation knelt and prayed and the priest prepared the holy sacrament, the guns kept on belching up and down the line as the prayer. They were interpreting their captain's "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Two Hundred Saloons.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
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[BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 27.]—Idaho's 200 saloons will close next Friday under the "drum tight" prohibition law passed by the last legislature. The laws have not yet given up the fight. An attack on the law is now before the United States supreme court on appeal. Idaho has no prohibition amendment in its constitution. An amendment of that character will be voted on next November.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Asquith ministry was under heavy attack today. Using David Lloyd-George's charge, "too late," as their slogan, influential London newspapers have launched a campaign for a reorganization of the ministry. Only prompt, decisive action by the cabinet council today on the conscription issue can save the prime minister and several of his colleagues from retirement, several newspapers hinted. Lloyd-George himself, once an object of scorn among the British "upper classes," probably will become the head of the government, if Asquith is forced out.

Despite previous optimistic reports, it was hinted in government circles today that Lord Derby's recruiting campaign did not bring into the army the number of volunteers needed.

The very fact that the government has not published the results, apparently confirms this report. The cabinet council, it was generally understood, will be called upon tonight to meet the conscription issue squarely. The conscription advocates demanded today that there be no further side-stepping. The government should not attempt to evade responsibility, they asserted, by submitting the question to a general election. On the other hand the anti-conscriptionists pointed to the threats of the labor chiefs and the speech of the Irish leader, John Redmond, in commons as indicating the danger facing the adoption of compulsory enlistment.

Unless the situation is met tonight, the leaders now in opposition to Premier Asquith expect to renew their fight in commons regarding reopening the Dardanelles and Balkans failures. London papers have rallied to the support of Lloyd-George. The minister of munitions' address to the trades unionists at Glasgow on Christmas, has centered attention upon Lloyd-George again as did his recent criticism of the government.

"You can't haggle with an earthquake," was one of his striking phrases in urging the unionists to help win the war "I appeal to you to lift up your eyes above the mists of expression and ascend to the heights of the greatest opportunity that ever opened before your clans."

STEAMER SUNK.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—The British steamer Hadley has been sunk by a submarine. Her crew was rescued, according to dispatches received here today.

The Hadley displaced 1,177 tons. She was owned by W. Cory and Son and registered at London.

HELD NEWS BACK.
NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The big British liner Aranza was sunk off the Russian port of Archangel, probably by a floating mine on December 16, according to authoritative information reaching shipping circles here today.

The news is said to have been suppressed by the British censor, for fear that neutral ship owners might become alarmed at the possible danger in Russian waters.

Excepting the Lusitania and the Arabic, the Aranza is the largest steamer sunk by mines or submarines since the beginning of the war. She was owned by the Royal Mail Packet company, displaced 15,044 tons and was 570 feet in length. She was built in 1912 and it is believed she was commanded at the outbreak of the war.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 27.—Several thousand rebellious Persian gendarmes, led by Turkish and German officers, were defeated by Russian troops midway between Teheran and Hamadan, was officially announced today. The Persians were well armed with field artillery and machine guns.

"On the Riga front we silenced German batteries," said the war office. "South of Ikaul the Germans used gas in an attack. On the Dvinsk front the enemy attempted an offensive, but was driven back."

IRISH GRAVES TO REMAIN OPEN

Urban Council Decides That Bodies of Lusitania Victims Must Remain There.

SOME ARE AMERICANS

Excuse is That It Would Endanger Health, But Religious Scruples is the Real Reason.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 27.—Bodies of a number of American victims of the Lusitania disaster must lie on foreign soil until they crumble into dust, the urban district council of Queenstown decreed today.

Most of them are women and girls. They were dragged from the water days, even weeks after the big liner was torpedoed off the Irish coast. Identification at first was impossible and they were buried in cheap coffins of flimsy material in one of the dreariest cemeteries in all Ireland, about a mile from town. Later their identity was established through post-mortem photographs. But the authorities today finally refused the pathetic pleas of American relatives that they be allowed to exhume the bodies and give them proper burial in America.

Consul Frost who for months has been aiding the relatives, was informed that exhumation would imperil public health. Religious scruples are said to constitute the real reason for the refusal. The council is made up of shop keepers, saloonists and one cab driver. They are said to oppose disinterment from consecrated ground.

Among those whose relatives are most anxious to return their bodies are Emma Fisher, Boston, Mrs. G. A. Anderson, Pittsford, and Miss Elizabeth Scoble of Concord, Mass. The Scoble family particularly desired to bury the girl's body beside that of her twin brother, Percy, another Lusitania victim, in the family lot at Concord. The two were enroute to England to engage in Red Cross work when the liner was sunk. Ase burial ground is in an isolated valley. The graves are covered with heavy moss; presumably the flimsy coffins are rapidly falling to pieces; the painted numbers on board head pieces by which identification was preserved, are fading away before the wind and rain.

The only human dwellings in the vicinity are two thatched peasant huts. Leading physicians and undertakers at Cork, ruled that the exhumation would not be harmful, but the council heatedly rejected their arguments and even a similar appeal made by Lord Wimborne in behalf of the British dead. Lord Wimborne did not persist in his efforts because of the peculiar political status in south Ireland, which he did not want to stir up.

The urban council holds the whip hand, the authorities said today.

Petition Denied.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The interstate commerce commission today denied the petition of the Chicago and Alton railroad for new passenger rates between Kansas City and Springfield, Ill., by way of San Jose. The road wished to make the rates coincide with those on direct route between the two cities.

Six Stores Burned.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
MONMOUTH, Ill., Dec. 27.—Fire of unknown origin early today destroyed six business houses at Little York, eleven miles west of here. The estimated loss is \$100,000.

Will be the subscription price of The Daily Gate City by mail beginning February 1, 1916.

Increases in the cost of materials and wages, and additional expense in general operation and purchase of news makes it necessary to advance the price from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per year.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

BALKANS

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.]
ROME, Dec. 27.—At least 150,000 Albanians have starved to death in the last year and the same fate awaits an equal number during the coming year, according to W. W. Roward, owner of the American relief schooner, Albania. Howard has just reached Rome after distributing two hundred tons of flour to the starving Albanians.

"The crops have been a failure for the past two years," said Howard. "The normal population of 1,000,000 have been added 200,000 Serbian refugees, who arrived without food and possessing only worthless Serbian money. And they brought with them 20,000 Austrian prisoners who must be fed."

"Two years ago the Greeks destroyed 225 villages in the Berat districts and the Serbs more than 100 villages in the Sanjac region. That has left a joint population of over 200,000 which is today homeless and without food. These people are dying by the thousands."

While Howard was unloading his flour cargo at Durazzo he fed several thousand Serbians and their Austrian prisoners.

IN CASE OF INVASION.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—Conflicting reports came from Athens today as to the probable course of the Greek government in the event of a Bulgarian invasion.

Former Premier Gournaris, who holds the reins of power, was quoted by one correspondent as declaring that Greece would deal firmly with such a situation. Another report said King Constantine has wired the kaiser that he would not consent to Bulgarian or Turkish troops crossing the Greek frontier. Still another dispatch said the Greek government had given its consent to a Bulgarian invasion.

KING OF SERBIA.
PARIS, Dec. 27.—King Peter of Serbia, has arrived in Italy aboard an Italian warship, according to Rome dispatches today. He plans to visit Rome and then go to the royal villa at Caserta which was placed at his disposal by King Victor Emmanuel.

The king had to be carried from the ship in an arm chair, according to a press dispatch. He told correspondents that he had turned authority over to Crown Prince Alexander and his physicians permit, he plans to go to Salonika to confer with the Serbian minister of war.

ITALY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
PARIS, Dec. 27.—Six passengers and one member of the crew perished when the Italian liner Port Said was sunk in the Mediterranean by an Austrian submarine, according to Milan dispatches today. Other passengers and members of the crew numbering about 150, were rescued.

An Italian destroyer answered the liner's call for aid and pursued the submarine for several miles, but the Austrian escaped by diving. The destroyer after rescuing the Port Said's passengers and crew, took into port at Derna a Greek steamer that had watched the sinking of the liner in the belief that she shielded the submarine's approach.

ON GREEK BORDER.
LONDON, Dec. 27.—Italian troops, landed at Avlona, have crossed the Albanian mountains and reached the Greek frontier in southern Albania, the Athens correspondent of the Telegraph reported today.

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
BERLIN, Dec. 27. (Via wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—"North of Neuville a hole blasted by the French, was occupied by our troops," said this afternoon's war office statement. Enemy mining operations on Combes heights did little damage."

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
PARIS, Dec. 27.—French artillery bombarded the German works at Thiencourt and Gremency in Lorraine throughout the night, this afternoon's communique reported.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

BLEW CHRISTMAS TREES OUT OF GERMAN TRENCHES

There Was No Truce on This Battle Front Friday, Where Shells and Mines Were Used Constantly.

ENGLISH WERE ON THE OFFENSIVE

Three Thousand Soldiers Heard Peace Sermon on Christmas Eve in the Cathedral of St. Maurice at Lille.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.]
LILLE, (via Berlin) Dec. 27.—English mines blew Christmas trees out of the German trenches on Christmas day and sent the German soldiers running helter-skelter. There was no truce, at least on this part of the battle front.

On Christmas eve, 3,000 German soldiers heard a peace sermon in the cathedral of St. Maurice.

"Let us pray that God will carry our peace prayers to the enemy," said the minister.

His words were echoed by a ceaseless roar of artillery along the front between Ypres and La Bassoe.

Throughout the night, artillery on both sides thundered, despite intermittent downpours of rain. Lille awoke on Christmas morning to find houses and factories isolated by the flood. Other villages near the battle front seemed to be floating. But despite the downpour and outer atmosphere of gloom, Lille, with its quarter of a million inhabitants and its thousands of soldiers, managed to celebrate Christmas in merry fashion.

Lighted, decorated Christmas trees peeped from the windows of private houses. Large ones stood in the railway station. They were in the restaurants and in the Red Cross training camps. The soldiers carried Christmas trees into the trenches to the astonishment of their officers and probably the enemy.

The German front on Christmas day offered a refutation of the world-wide accusation that the English "are letting the French do all the fighting."

On Thanksgiving day I walked two hours along the front line trenches in the Arroune at some places only fifteen feet from the French works. Only three rifle shots were fired during that time and there was only an occasional artillery shot.

On Christmas day even the rain did not stop the British artillery. Every clear day, they said, English aeroplanes hover over Lille. The suburbs of the city are within reach of English guns which bombard occasionally. As soon as the bombardment ceases, the children resume playing in the streets.

Christmas eve with the German companies here was like Christmas eve with one great family. Correspondents sat with 1,000 geottingen landsturmiers, every one of whom is married. Someone figured during the evening that their children total 5,100. They had just unpacked cigars, nut cakes, sausages, bacon and other presents from home.

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The captain of a company which entered Lille shortly after the beginning of the war, made the principal address.

"A year ago," he said, "I predicted that we would spend another Christmas in the field. I now wish to repeat that prediction for the coming year. Germany is fighting four leading powers of the world; some say a fifth."

This latter remark was obviously intended for America.

While the captain spoke, eyes of the soldiers about the table were dimmed with tears. The officer escorting our party replied briefly. The men applauded energetically when he expressed the hope that peace would come before another Christmas.

In a similar manner all the German companies from the English channel to Switzerland celebrated. On Christmas afternoon the \$500,000 theatre which the French started and the Germans completed, was formally opened by the crown prince of Bavaria. Sixteen hundred soldiers attended the opening ceremonies.

FIRST OFFICIAL NEWS IS RECEIVED
Japanese Liner Was Torpedoed Without Warning by Submarine of Unknown Nationality.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Official confirmation of the submarining of the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru, which has been awaited by the state department before framing a protest over the jeopardizing of one American passenger, was received today. It came from American Consul Hristov at Port Said, Egypt.

The vessel was attacked without warning, the report said, the periscope of the submarine not being seen until after the vessel was struck. It sank in forty-nine minutes. The nationality of the submarine is unknown. The crew of 162 and the 120 passengers, including W. J. Leigh, American, all took to small boats and were picked up later by a French cruiser.

Until the cruiser appeared to pick up the passengers, the submarine followed the small boats, apparently to see that no harm befell.

The fact that the nationality of the submarine—supposed to be German or Austrian—is still unknown, will make further investigation by the state department before any formal protest can be made.

MONROE DOCTRINE IS STILL SACRED PRINCIPLE

The Twenty-one Pan-American Countries Should be Closer Friends.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Secretary of State Lansing, speaking before the second Pan-American scientific congress here today, dwelt significantly on this government's insistence that the Monroe doctrine is as sacred a principle now as when first proclaimed.

"The feeling that the republics of this hemisphere," said Secretary Lansing, "constitute a group separate and apart from the other nations of the world, united by common ideals and common aspirations, has become today a definite and certain force which draws together the twenty-one republics and makes them the American family of nations."

The secretary reiterated the declaration of President Wilson regarding "sentiments which will find echo in every other American republic," that

the might of this country will never be exercised in a spirit of greed to wrest from a neighboring state its territory or possessions. He suggested that the Pan-American nations might well take the motto of Dumas' Musketeers, "One for all, all for one."

The secretary urged more than cooperation for defense against any country that might look with covetous eyes on the riches of the Americas. He said there should be closer relationship in trade and commerce.

"They must be not only neighbors, but friends; not only friends, but intimates," he said. Lansing pictured a continent at war where "untold misery is being endured and a terrible heritage being transmitted to succeeding generations," and drew a comparison with the "continent at peace" as teaching a lesson that should not be ignored.

"With all earnestness," the secretary concluded, "I commend to you the thought of the American republics, twenty-one sovereign and independent nations, bound together by faith and justice and firmly cemented by a sympathy which shows no superior and no inferior, but which recognized only equality and fraternity."

FIRE IN BRITISH SHIP WHILE TIED TO DOCK

Captain Thinks That German Agents Put Something in Sugar Cargo.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Fire which broke out in Number three hold of the British steamship Inchmooch, as she lay at her slip in Brooklyn, damaged the cargo of sugar to the extent of \$75,000 to \$100,000 and started the authorities on an entirely new line of investigation.

"They say sugar burns from spontaneous combustion," said Captain Pyle of the Inchmooch, yet, before this war I never heard of a sugar cargo burst-

ing into flames. I think German agents started the Inchmooch fire by mixing a white chemical with the sugar."

The finding of traces of chlorate of potash near other suspicious ship fires, caused the authorities to investigate the theory that the chemical bombs or combustion caused other recent ship fires.

The federal jury investigating various phases of the alleged German propaganda was expected to report today, returning several indictments.