

Germany Destroy Two More British Vessels

Merchantmen Sent to Bottom, Presumably by Torpedoes, but Crews Are Saved—U. S. Seeking Temporary Relief.

ENGLAND NOT IN FAVOR OF EMBARGO CONCESSION

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 25.—The seventh day of the German blockade of the British Isles brought news of the destruction of two more mercantile vessels, making a total of thirteen ships of British and neutral nationality sunk or damaged by mines or torpedoes in the first week of the submarine warfare which began on February 18.

The latest victims are the steamer Deftford and the Western Coast, both British craft. The Deftford was sunk off Scarborough in the North Sea and the Western Coast was blown up at the dangerous zone off Beachy Head in the English Channel. In neither case has the agency of the destruction been definitely ascertained. The special list of ships that were responsible.

The Deftford, a small ship of 1,205 tons and 230 feet in length, owned by the Deftford Steamship Co., was at a dock yesterday morning, with a loss of one life. Fifteen of the crew were landed today at South Shields. The Western Coast was blown up as she was at his post when an explosion split the ship. He was thrown down and stunned but managed to reach the deck before the ship was completely destroyed. Some of the crew saw the cause of a submarine afterward. They spent some hours in a small boat during a violent storm, but were rescued by a British vessel when they reached land. On the way they passed a steamer which paid no attention to their signals. Later the steamer was seen to be a German.

The Western Coast was sunk yesterday afternoon, much in the same manner as was the Deftford. All hands were saved. The vessel was at Plymouth this morning. The vessel was a small coasting steamer.

QUICK RELIEF SOUGHT.

U. S. Wants Temporary Arrangement for Protection of Neutrals.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The negotiations between the United States and Germany concerning a temporary arrangement for the protection of neutrals in the zone decreed and the deceptive use of the American flag by British merchant vessels.

A high official here tonight said that the United States is seeking to arrange a modus vivendi between Germany and Great Britain on this subject. This, it is believed, is the only way to secure an arrangement for temporary relief from the war zone decree, pending some other permanent standing for the protection of neutrals.

Government officials were still reticent in regard to details of the negotiations. It is believed that the only way to secure an understanding of this character will be the modification by Germany of her war zone decree and the allowing by England of foodstuffs to be imported into neutral ports into Germany for the civilian population.

Although evidence is strong that such a concession is being refused by Germany, it was pointed out here today that the British Foreign Office has not yet taken a flat stand making foodstuffs absolutely contraband. The information has been received here in response to the representations Ambassador Gerard has made.

In a negative way some facts were given in connection with the negotiations now in progress. It was authoritatively stated that this government has not even considered threatening England and Germany with an American embargo on foodstuffs if they did not grant concessions in safeguarding American shipping in the war zones.

It was also learned that the question of whether American consular officers might supervise the distribution of food imported into Germany, as Germany suggested to the United States, has not been considered by the State Department. The opinion is entertained generally among officials that the German suggestion is an impracticable one and also dangerous for the United States.

U. S. PLAN HANGS FIRE.

No Decision in Berlin—Opposition in England.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The discussion of the proposals from Washington in regard to a solution of the blockade question continues here and in Berlin, but so far as known neither the Allies nor the German authorities have reached definite conclusions. The British cabinet was in session for two hours this evening. It is understood the ministers discussed the American proposal.

The American proposals are assumed to be in accordance with the blockade by Germany and the definition by the fighting nations of a denotation policy regarding foodstuffs destined for the civilian population.

The English attitude seems to have been already indicated by the statements of Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, and Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, who have more than hinted that drastic retaliatory measures may be expected at any moment.

POTATOES FROM POLAND.

Prussia Minister Says Germany Will Import Vegetable.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 25.—Baron von Schönerer, the Prussian Minister of Agriculture, told the Reichstag today that quantities of potatoes will be brought from Poland and that large supplies had been left by the Russians in East Prussia.

Try Russian Deputies for Treason.

Petrograd, Feb. 25.—The trial of five alleged deputies who are charged with treasonable activities began yesterday in public. The men are accused with meeting with other Socialists on November 17 to take measures to oppose the war because they feared that a Russian victory would strengthen the government and result in reactionary measures.

Russian Loan for Support Road.

Petrograd, Feb. 25.—The Russian Government has placed a loan for \$1,800,000 which will be used in road building, with the object of continuing the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway.

Exchange Prisoners of War.

BERN, Feb. 25.—France and Germany have completed arrangements for the exchange of prisoners of war who are to be repatriated by the further release of \$4,000,000 in German gold from Berlin.

“SPECIAL PORTS” LISTED.

U. S. War Risk Bureau Includes British and French Cities.

William C. De Lanoy, director of the Government bureau of war risk insurance, announced in New York yesterday that at a meeting of the advisory board rates for German ports were temporarily suspended. After explaining the action taken in Washington yesterday he said:

“Germany is mutually struck, an implacable blockade is drawing tighter and tighter about her. Despite all speculations Germany has taken to conceal the truth, I can assure you that her financial and economic rout is complete.”

The interview took place in the Prime Minister's private office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Here he works from 8 o'clock in the morning until 11 at night. Dressed in a blue business suit, his hair and mustache of iron gray, the man at the head of the French Government closely resembled an American business man. When I entered he was pacing the floor smoking a cigarette.

“The bureau has also included in its list of special ports all United Kingdom ports and French ports south [north] of Bordeaux. This special list of ports has been in existence, subject to change, since the beginning of the Government war risk bureau. Risks at these ports are covered by the treaty only when the application is made in Washington and the rates are quoted only at the time the offer is made. This enables the bureau to reexamine immediately any change in the hazard to such ports.”

UNIFORMS IN WRECKAGE

Sinking of British Transport in Channel Indicated.

BREITEN, via London, Feb. 25.—Despatches from North Sea ports say that the Norwegian steamer Oria, while passing through the English Channel recently, sighted floating wreckage in the form of uniforms, hats and shoes. It is supposed they were from some British transport which has been sent to the bottom.

Nothing further has been heard regarding the reported sinking of a British transport off Beachy Head, England, recently.

RAISES U. S. INSURANCE.

London Rate on American Carriages Same as on British.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 25.—In consequence of German attacks on neutral shipping the insurance on cargoes in American liners has been raised to the same level as for British liners, namely, ten per cent, as long as it was thought that the Germans would respect American vessels and their cargoes. This demand of British ship owners.

CARIB INQUIRY ON.

Germany Investigates Loss of American Ship by Mine.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Feb. 25.—The American Ambassador at Bremen is taking depositions of the crew of the American steamer Carib, destroyed by a mine in the North Sea, as to whether or not the vessel was in a zone decreed by the German regulations.

No detailed report has been received by the American Embassy at Bremen, but it is believed that the British Admiralty is conducting an inquiry into the circumstances under which the ship foundered.

BERLIN REPLIES TO ROME

Germany Promises to Respect Italian Flag.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—A despatch from Rome says that Germany's reply to Italy's memorandum on the blockade decree has reached there and that it states that Germany will respect the Italian flag.

DAZIA NEAR BRITISH COAST.

May Reach English Channel Today—Will Be Seized.

A despatch received here yesterday reported the former Hamburg-American liner Dacia, now under the American flag, is being driven by a German vessel toward the English Channel today. She may reach the English Channel today. She is carrying a cargo of cotton, valued at 400 miles west of Lands End. She may reach the English Channel today.

COTTON SHIP IN DANGER.

Sliver Vessel of the Carib Advised of the Safety Lines.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Sea lanes in which American ships on their way to Germany are in no danger of being blown up by mines or torpedoes were described in detail by the German Embassy in Washington today.

The information was at once telegraphed to the owners of the Carib, which, loaded with cotton for Bremen, was blown up near the German coast, and to the owners of the Carib, another ship now on route for Bremen of the safety lines.

WHEAT EXPORTS INCREASE.

Ten Days From Feb. 11 Show 2,557,880 Bushels Shipped.

Exports of wheat from New York for the ten days beginning February 11 amounted to 2,557,880 bushels, as compared with 2,339,294 bushels in the corresponding ten days of January. Italy continued to be the largest taker of wheat, the amount being 876,965 bushels, against 799,375 bushels in the January period. The Netherlands was the next largest taker, with 730,518 bushels, against 649,432 bushels. England took 608,225 bushels, against 529,964.

Belgium in the February ten days got 224,924 bags of wheat flour. None was sent there in the January period.

SAVANNAH LINER COTTON SHIP.

City of Savannah Will Take 10,000 Bales to Rotterdam.

The steamship City of Savannah, one of the finest of the Savannah Line fleet, recently in from Rotterdam, is going to make the overseas trip with a cargo of cotton, and to protest herself against German submarines she has a big American flag painted on each side that will be illuminated at night.

She sailed yesterday for Wilmington, N. C., where she will load 10,000 bales destined for Germany by way of Rotterdam.

To Exchange Prisoners of War.

BERN, Feb. 25.—France and Germany have completed arrangements for the exchange of prisoners of war who are to be repatriated by the further release of \$4,000,000 in German gold from Berlin.

GERMANY BEATEN, SAYS M. VIVIANI

French Premier Declares Empire's Economic Rout Is Now Complete.

“FRANCE LACKS NOTHING”

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, United Press Staff Correspondent.

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Paris, Feb. 25.—Premier R. Viviani pictured Germany to me today as a half-beaten nation, in the first interview the French Prime Minister has ever granted any newspaper man, French or foreign. “The German torrent is checked,” he said decisively.

“Germany is mutually struck, an implacable blockade is drawing tighter and tighter about her. Despite all speculations Germany has taken to conceal the truth, I can assure you that her financial and economic rout is complete.”

The interview took place in the Prime Minister's private office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Here he works from 8 o'clock in the morning until 11 at night. Dressed in a blue business suit, his hair and mustache of iron gray, the man at the head of the French Government closely resembled an American business man. When I entered he was pacing the floor smoking a cigarette.

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Kaiser Takes Przasnysz, 60 Miles From Warsaw

Berlin Announces Capture of 10,000 Prisoners—Russians Reach Mogheli, Near Bolimow—Troops Mass for Fighting Along Entire Front.

CZAR'S FORCES FOUR MILES FROM CZERNOWITZ

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, United Press Staff Correspondent.

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The British Admiralty announced that the Franco-British fleet under Vice-Admiral Carleton bombarded the forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles and reduced all on both sides of the strait. The fleet will now proceed to attack the next group of forts at Kephez, eleven miles up the strait.

FIGHT ON WHOLE FRONT.

Germany Seek to Engage Entire Russian Forces.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs: “The semi-official War Office statement today confirms my reference made yesterday to the German endeavor to precipitate a great battle along the whole 700 mile front from the Baltic Sea to the Rumanian frontier.”

“The enemy is now set upon measuring strength with that of the Russian armies and has given up the semi-official note says, my correspondent's account of the military-geographical objective. His aim is to engage the whole of the Russian forces.”

“The Russians are not putting any themselves upon the realization of this design. They are in fact very glad that the moment of a general engagement has arrived. As far as it goes, they are not giving the Russians any cause to be discouraged.”

“The military critic of the *Household* considers the German advance as already brought to a standstill. This is as much too sanguine now as the prediction of last week was too gloomy.”

“The Russian staff has been driven forward by the Russian army, although skillfully planned, failed utterly. Berlin newspapers declared the whole army not only advanced but that the Russian army may not be able to account for even one division. The feat of the two regiments of the Twenty-eighth division which broke through the enemy's lines near Suwalki, was one of the finest of the war. In spite of the fact that they had scarcely any ammunition they flung themselves upon the enemy's bayoneted a path to safety for themselves. When the bayonets were twisted or broken by the constant fierce stabbing of the bayonets, the soldiers used their hands and feet to break through the ranks of the enemy. Hundreds of Germans lie in the woods, their helmets battered into their brains.”

“The main fighting is going along the line from the fortresses at Ossowice southwesterly to Ploisk.”

“The German line was in communication with their forces on the other side of the Niemen. This line reached the eastward from the Mauerian lakes to westward Augustowo this line also pressed forward to the number of 200,000. The Russian staff has been driven forward by the Russian army, although skillfully planned, failed utterly. Berlin newspapers declared the whole army not only advanced but that the Russian army may not be able to account for even one division. The feat of the two regiments of the Twenty-eighth division which broke through the enemy's lines near Suwalki, was one of the finest of the war. In spite of the fact that they had scarcely any ammunition they flung themselves upon the enemy's bayoneted a path to safety for themselves. When the bayonets were twisted or broken by the constant fierce stabbing of the bayonets, the soldiers used their hands and feet to break through the ranks of the enemy. Hundreds of Germans lie in the woods, their helmets battered into their brains.”

GERMAN TAKE TOWN

ON DRIVE TO WARSAW

Advance of Kaiser's Army 60 Miles From Polish Capital.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Germans have captured the town of Przasnysz, the primary objective of their drive south toward the Vistula and Warsaw, according to the official statement issued today at Berlin. The advance was a stormy one, and the eastern theater is as follows:

The engagements on the Memel (Niemens), Bobr and Nagaw rivers continue. The town of Przasnysz, in Russian Poland, has been captured. The Russian forces were driven toward the Vistula and Warsaw, according to the official statement issued today at Berlin. The advance was a stormy one, and the eastern theater is as follows:

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GERMAN GARRISON LOST.

Only 150 Near Czernowitza Survived, Says Petrograd.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Russian General Staff made the following official statement tonight:

“On the Niemen in the sector from Kovno to Olsia, our advance guards have progressed a long distance from the river to the right in the direction of the town of Ploisk. The town of Ploisk is situated on the bank of the Niemen and is occupied by the Germans, who are surrounded by a small detachment of infantry. The town of Ploisk is situated on the bank of the Niemen and is occupied by the Germans, who are surrounded by a small detachment of infantry. The town of Ploisk is situated on the bank of the Niemen and is occupied by the Germans, who are surrounded by a small detachment of infantry.”

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FRENCH ADVANCE IN CHAMPAGNE REGION

Paris Official Report Says “Neutral” Says in London Fighting Continues Favorable to Allies.

CANNONADE IN BELGIUM

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—In comparison with the violent fighting of the past few days the operations reported in the official communiqués of the French War Office today are of moderate intensity, but in one part of the front—Champagne—the French offensive seems to be becoming irresistible.

There has been no cessation of the fighting at Souain, Perthes and Beaurevoir, which continues to be favorable to the Allies. Both War Office statements show that the French advance continues despite the increasing strength of the German resistance. During the past twenty-four hours a German detachment was captured near Perthes, and the enemy's positions have been successfully bombarded.

The cannonading has been going on for two days without intermission at Lombratzville, where the big guns of the Allies have demonstrated their superiority. In the Artois, German efforts to assume the offensive have been defeated, according to the night communiqués, which says:

In the district of Lombratzville our artillery advanced and badly damaged one of the enemy's batteries. The day was one of relative calm on the front from the Lys to Champagne. In the region of Souain and Beaurevoir the operations have been continued in conditions favorable to us. We captured several German prisoners and a number of machine guns. The German advance was stopped by our fire.

In the Artois, at the Housseau-Meurisieux, near Le Four de Paris, we destroyed a blockhouse. The Germans made an attempt to debouch from their lines near our works at Meuse, but their attack was stopped by our fire.

The events set forth in the afternoon communiqués, aside from the engagement in Champagne, where operations are now taking part in the conflict, are the beginning of the bombardment at Lombratzville, the defeat of a German attack in the Artois, and the progress in the Meuse, and the failure of a German assault in Lorraine. The afternoon statement follows:

At Lombratzville our artillery demolished a blockhouse and some of the enemy's outposts. In Champagne we have maintained the new positions which we were able to reach after the enemy's counter-attacks were repulsed. Our aviators threw sixty bombs on railway stations, train and bombardment works at Meuse. The bombardment was very effective.

In the Artois, at Meuse, the enemy made an attack which was immediately checked by our fire. In the Champagne and the Meuse, the Artois and the Meuse, our heavy artillery destroyed armored shelters, machine gun positions and other trenches situated by the enemy.

In Lorraine, near Parroy, there was a skirmish between patrol, the Germans being put to flight.

ANOTHER CALAIS DRIVE.

Germany Said to Plan Second Attempt on Channel Port.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Rotterdam correspondent of the *Daily Mail* telegraphs as follows:

My correspondent in Flanders telegraphs that the Germans are making another attempt to capture the Calais. Twelve thousand troops are concentrated at one place day and night working on trenches. The German officers at Arras say that a great effort is to be made against Calais within three weeks. Extensive plans have been prepared for bringing troops from East Prussia to carry out the programme.