

ALLIES WIN GROUND AT ZONNEBEKE; DRIVE FOB FROM TRENCHES

Important German Position South of Ypres Captured by Series of Charges—Invaders Shell St. Georges.

PARIS, Dec. 29. Gains for the Allies in Flanders are officially announced in a statement issued here this afternoon. It says that they have advanced in the region of Nieupoort and that they have captured a strong German point of support to the southeast of Zonnebeke, on the Beclere-Paschendale road. From this point they are now in position to drive a wedge into the German lines in that vicinity. The fighting here has been of a desperate character for weeks, but the French, taking advantage of the German withdrawal caused by weather conditions, pushed their lines forward and finally captured an entire chain of trenches by a series of brilliant bayonet charges.

GERMANS SHELL ST. GEORGES. The town of St. Georges, recently captured by the Allies, has been placed in a state of defense by them. It is being bombarded by the Germans. In the valley of the Aisne and in Champagne, the Germans are manifesting greater activity. In the Argonne the Allies have made some progress. The French forces in Upper Alsace are strengthening their positions there and their heavy artillery has silenced the German batteries which have been bombarding Upper Anspach. The operations in the Upper Alsace region have begun to overshadow all of the others in the opinion of the French military experts. They believe that the long-looked-for drive, which is intended to clear Alsace from the Swiss frontier and the Rhine to Strasbourg and Metz, is under way. The German positions at Steinbach are being shelled, and it is believed that they will soon be taken. This will open the roadways leading to Altkirch and Mulhausen. Meanwhile, the long-range guns of the French picked artillery have begun shelling the German trenches around Mulhausen.

SHELLS FALL ON STEINBACH. The French lines have been drawn through Cernay, Aspach, Thann and Sulz. In the center of this circle lies Steinbach, which is under continuous bombardment. Steinbach is nine miles northwest of Mulhausen. It lies upon a railway line running from Mulhausen into the lower reaches of the Vosges Mountains and is a point of considerable strategic importance. That the Germans expect a powerful offensive by the French in Alsace is shown by the official statement issued in Berlin, declaring that General Joffre is massing strong forces along the Belfort-Epinal-Toul-Nancy line and is developing new activity in the Vosges Passes. The French War Office has displayed unusual reticence during the last few days in reporting developments on the eastern wing, and this silence is regarded as significant. The almost daily flights of French aviators over Metz, Sarreburg and other German strongholds are probably more for observation purposes than with any serious intention of inflicting damage by the dropping of bombs on the defenses.

BERLIN ADMITS ALLIES' CAPTURE OF ST. GEORGES. Clear Driven Back in East Prussia. Report Poland Situation Unchanged. BERLIN, Dec. 29. An official statement issued here this afternoon admits that the German troops have been compelled to evacuate the little town of St. Georges, Flanders. Fighting for the town, which was taken in a surprise attack by the Allies, is still going on. Russian cavalry have suffered a severe reverse in East Prussia and have been forced back to Kilkallen. The German offensive continues on the west bank of the Vistula and the east bank of the Baura River, according to the War Office statement, which also asserts definitely that both Lodz and Skiernewice are in German hands. Official denial is made of reports emanating from Petrograd to the effect that the Russian are advancing south of Inowolka. The German War Office dispatches that both Lodz and Skiernewice are in German hands. Official denial is made of reports emanating from Petrograd to the effect that the Russian are advancing south of Inowolka. The German War Office dispatches that both Lodz and Skiernewice are in German hands.

GERMANS INVADEN ANGOLA. Portuguese Forced to Retreat Before Superior Forces. LISBON, Dec. 29. An official announcement by the government this morning of the invasion of Angola, the Portuguese colony on the west coast of Africa, admits success for the Germans. The report says: "The superior forces of the Germans compelled the Portuguese to retire to a strategic position in the interior. The Portuguese dragoons, in a violent attack, dispersed the German cavalry, but the Portuguese attempt to surround the enemy's left flank failed. "The Portuguese loss was one officer killed, three wounded and four missing."

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To Dust With Foe, Vows the Kaiser

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 29. The Kaiser sat down to Christmas dinner with nearly 1000 officers and men at the Hotel de Ville, in a town in Northern France. An altar was erected at one end of the hall and in front of it a crucifix containing the figure of Christ. The Christmas festival is described as plain, simple and impressive. It was the Kaiser's personal wish to be present. The hall was decorated with holly and hung with pictures of the Kaiser and his generals. Christmas trees, with candles, were placed on the tables. Cakes, apples and nuts were distributed, and every officer present received as a special Christmas present a portrait of the Kaiser. Every soldier received a tobacco pipe, another cigar, and the Kaiser himself presented all standing and singing the old German Christmas song, "How Glad and Holy Christmas Time." The Kaiser, on rising, was cheered. He smiled and said: "Good evening, comrades! After the army chaplain had made a short speech, another song followed, and the Kaiser then made the following speech: "Comrades: We are gathered here armed to celebrate the holy festival which we used to celebrate in our homes. Our thoughts are turned backward to our own at home and those of the Russian bayonets have been used to great advantage. The Turks are declared to be committing outrages against the civil population of the villages in the territory through which they have moved and to have massacred thousands of men and women. The Russian cruiser Askold bombarded the Turkish port of Izmir, east of Port Said, on Sunday. The cruiser sent a launch to reconnoiter near Beirut, but it was fired upon by Turks and driven off. The Turks have withdrawn a large portion of their troops from the Thracian frontier in order to send them into Asia Minor for service against the Russians. Since the sinking of the Turkish battleship Mesoudieh by a British submarine in the Dardanelles, the Turks have withdrawn nearly all their heavy artillery from the forts around Adrianople and the Tchatalja forts to strengthen the defenses of Gallipoli. The defenses at Gallipoli and the works protecting the Gulf of Samos are all being strengthened. Turkey will continue to maintain a strong force upon the Peninsula of Gallipoli. The British are always danger of a land attack against the Dardanelles forts. The Turkish army in Thrace (including those on the Peninsula of Gallipoli), is estimated now at 300,000 men.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 29. It is officially announced that another attempt of the British to invade Turkey at Akabab, on the Red Sea, has been repulsed. A landing party was forced to retire. In the Caucasus the Russians are in flight and Turkey is victorious. Many prisoners and much war material were taken here. Another success was achieved north of the River Ura, where prisoners and guns were taken.

ITALY DEMANDS FURTHER AMENDS BY THE TURKS. Cabinet Meets Today to Press Hodeidah Matter. ROME, Dec. 29.—Despite the apparently favorable developments growing out of the Italian occupation of Avlona there is still considerable anxiety as to the eventual outcome of that action. The Hodeidah "outrage," as the Italians call it, has apparently not been settled to the satisfaction of the Government and further pressure is to be brought to bear upon Turkey to compel the Ottoman Government to grant all the Italian demands.

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TURKISH TRENCHES IN CAUCASUS TAKEN BY RUSSIAN CHARGE

Czar's Forces Occupy Merdenek After Series of Attacks—Ottomans Report British Repulse on Red Sea. PETROGRAD, Dec. 29. Fighting in the Caucasus has resulted in the Russian occupancy of Merdenek, near Barykum, on the Turkish frontier. Turkish trenches were carried after a series of bayonet charges in which the defending forces lost very heavily. Russian cavalry divisions are reported operating in the direction of Khorassan. The Turkish defensive is stated to be very strongly maintained and there have been many encounters at close quarters in which the Russian bayonets have been used to great advantage. The Turks are declared to be committing outrages against the civil population of the villages in the territory through which they have moved and to have massacred thousands of men and women. The Russian cruiser Askold bombarded the Turkish port of Izmir, east of Port Said, on Sunday. The cruiser sent a launch to reconnoiter near Beirut, but it was fired upon by Turks and driven off. The Turks have withdrawn a large portion of their troops from the Thracian frontier in order to send them into Asia Minor for service against the Russians. Since the sinking of the Turkish battleship Mesoudieh by a British submarine in the Dardanelles, the Turks have withdrawn nearly all their heavy artillery from the forts around Adrianople and the Tchatalja forts to strengthen the defenses of Gallipoli. The defenses at Gallipoli and the works protecting the Gulf of Samos are all being strengthened. Turkey will continue to maintain a strong force upon the Peninsula of Gallipoli. The British are always danger of a land attack against the Dardanelles forts. The Turkish army in Thrace (including those on the Peninsula of Gallipoli), is estimated now at 300,000 men.

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LOST AT SEA

BERLIN NOW PLACES SMALL DEPENDENCE UPON AUSTRIAN AID

German Press Bureau Officially Admits Defeat of Ally and Superiority of Russian Left Wing. BERLIN, Dec. 29. Military critics here have ceased to place much reliance in substantial aid from the Austrians in the eastern war theatre. For some time the opinion has been prevalent that the campaign must be conducted through German forces and resources, and this fact is confirmed by the latest disaster to the Austrian armies in Galicia. So patent has this fact become that even the War Office now admits the failure of the Austrian campaign in Galicia. Its Press Bureau says: "The fact must be faced that the extreme left wing of the Russians is proving itself superior to its opponents" and that "new dispositions" by the Austrians "will require some time."

AMERICAN, A WAR SUICIDE. Milwaukee Man Had Enlisted With Canadian Troops. LONDON, Dec. 29.—A verdict of suicide was handed down last evening by a coroner's jury which held an inquest on the body of a man said to be Ralph K. Danforth, a medical practitioner of 119 Queen Anne street, Milwaukee, who was a member of the Canadian contingent.

SEIZE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Germans Remove 680 From Villages Near Verdun to Germany. PARIS, Dec. 29.—All the women and children of Marcheville and neighboring villages in the Department of the Meuse, near Verdun, were taken prisoners on October 28. Letters received here show that they are being held in barracks at Amberg, Bavaria.

GERMANS GUARD FOOD DEPOTS. AMSTERDAM, Dec. 29.—German factories in towns near the German border, where food is manufactured, and provision warehouses are being put under military supervision. High-angle guns are being mounted on the roofs to repel British air raids.

LOSS OF BULWARK ACCIDENT. Spontaneous Combustion Cause of British Battleship Explosion. LONDON, Dec. 29.—The destruction of the British battleship Bulwark was today officially intimated as an accident. The inquest into the death of the entire crew was completed and the verdict was ordered entered of accidental death.

STAB AT BRITISH HEART. Invasion of Egypt Great Stroke, Says von der Goltz. AMSTERDAM, Dec. 29.—In an interview with Marshall von der Goltz, in the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger, he says: "A successful attack on Egypt would be a stab in England's heart. It prepares a way for the British to be driven out of the Suez Canal, and the British Empire would be cut in two."

ANGLO-AMERICAN WAR. 100 TO 15 LLOYDS BET. LONDON, Dec. 29.—A premium of 15 guineas per cent. was being paid in Lloyd's yesterday on policies worded "to pay a total loss in event of declaration of war between Great Britain and America within 12 months from date."

TURKS WOUND AMERICAN. British Copper Plant Near Batum Seized After Fight. LONDON, Dec. 29.—In the invasion of the British copper plant near Batum by the Turkish army, the American manager, R. E. White, was wounded, but managed to escape with the other foreign officials of the company. Some of the officials have arrived in London.

WOMEN RULE MEN. Teachers in Jersey But Elect a Man. ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 29.—Women teachers, largely in the majority, effectively using "steam-roller" methods to crush mere masculine opposition, at the annual meeting of the retirement branch of the State Teachers' Association, today, made honorable amends in most unexpected fashion.

BLACK SHEEP DIES A HERO. From Private R. G. Tupper, of the Coldstream Guards. There was a man in the trenches with us who had not got a clean sheet, he always seemed to be getting into trouble for one thing and another. He got hit in the left arm. He crawled back to the trenches in the night. There, despite his wounded arm, he steadily went on firing at the enemy.

LEADING EDUCATORS DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF PENNA. SCHOOLS. HARRISBURG, Dec. 29.—The second session of the Pennsylvania State Educational Association was opened this afternoon with 1000 educators present. The attendance is the largest ever held at the biennial meetings, which always convene in Harrisburg but before the opening of the Legislature. Departmental meetings were held this morning.

GENERAL FRENCH SOLDIERS' IDOL. Letter from Captain H. L. Cabuche, of South Kensington, who is at the front. Just a line to let you know I am all right. Things are going slowly but surely, and our men are doing right nobly. I do hope that at home realize the glorious and fearless work being done by our men, as it simply surpasses all anticipations.

SHIPPING MEN HOLD NO HOPE FOR LOWER RATES. Do Not Believe Government Probe Will Reduce Schedules. Shippers of this port are eagerly awaiting the result of the investigation of the present high steamship rates conducted by Secretary of Commerce and Redfield upon the request of Congress. The rates are higher than they have been for a half century, but men familiar with conditions are knowing the urgent demand for tonnage and the fact that the Government is preventing the present high schedules, which are increasing almost daily.

LETTER'S BEST COAL. Egg \$7, Stove \$7.25, Chestnut \$7.50. Large Round Pen Coal, \$5.50. Large Round Pen Coal, \$5.50. OWEN LETTER'S SONS. Trenton Ave. & Westmoreland St.

POSTBAG FROM BATTLE FRONT

First-hand Accounts of Land and Sea Conflicts Told by the Fighting Soldiers and Sailors Themselves.

The real war correspondents of the present European struggle are the men in the trenches and the men on the quarter deck. Professional writers are not permitted to take the front. All that we know of what they see glean from the wounded occupants of ambulances taken to the rear. The Evening Ledger will print from time to time the most interesting letters and notes in their letters home. German letters, when obtainable, as well as those of the Allies, will be printed.

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