

16-INCH GUNS WILL DEPEND COAST OF U. S.

War Department Program Plans \$100,000,000 Outlay for Preparedness

NEW FORT AT LEWES, DEL.

Philadelphia and Chesapeake Bay to Be Protected—Big Ammunition Reserve

Leading Features of New Plans for Coast Defense

Sixteen-inch guns in all new fortifications. Ammunition reserve to supply as many rounds as each gun will stand.

A supply of huge 16-inch semi-mobile howitzers, designed to be the greatest arm of modern times. A supply of 11-inch howitzers for use as mobile artillery.

One hundred anti-aircraft guns. Immediate mounting of the entire reserve of 12-inch guns with high-elevation carriage to guard coast until 16-inch guns can be built.

Big new fortifications at New York and Cape Henry.

Entire program to cost nearly \$100,000,000, over a period of four or five years.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—A new program for increasing the coast defenses and the mobile arms of the United States to their maximum efficiency, at a cost of \$100,000,000, has been completed by the War Department.

The plan was developed after a thorough survey of the present defenses.

The program has been laid before the Appropriation Committee of the House for use in the preparation of the fortifications appropriation bill.

Philadelphia will be guarded by a new fort at Lewes, Del.

It is proposed to mount in the forts guarding first-class cities 16-inch guns now held as a reserve. Such guns will be placed on the forts in the Delaware River.

The plan calls for as its chief features:

The exclusive use of 16-inch guns in all new coast defenses; development of a semi-mobile 16-inch howitzer, to be transported by railroad or by motor tractor, and to be the greatest arm of modern times; and the accumulation of reserve ammunition that will allow each gun in the coast defenses as many rounds as may be fired during the life of the gun.

The immediate mounting of 24 12-inch guns, now held as a reserve on new carriages that will give them an increased range that will allow them to stand off any modern battleship, has been decided upon. These guns will be mounted at points to guard first-class cities, while the 16-inch guns plan is being carried out.

PLAN OF EXPENDITURES.

The plan contemplates any expenditure of more than \$5,000,000 over a period of four or five years. Of this amount, about \$71,000,000 would be spent on defenses in the United States proper, \$11,000,000 on defenses in the insular possessions, and nearly \$18,000,000 on defenses for the Panama Canal. A material factor in the increased money demanded is the new plan to build up an ammunition reserve. Heretofore the coast defenses have been provided with ammunition on the theoretical basis of two hours continuous firing, and about \$46,000,000 of the total expenditures on the program will go to furnishing the guns all the ammunition they can shoot. This increase is explained by the increased volume of fire at the command of modern warships.

"If this plan is carried out reasonably and sanely," said Representative Shriver, chairman of the committee which handles the fortifications bill, today, "the coast defenses of the United States will be adequate to perform the military functions for which they were created."

THE ARTILLERY ARMS.

The War Department is at work developing three new artillery arms which are embraced in the new plan. They are the semi-mobile 16-inch howitzers, and approximately 11-inch howitzers for use of the mobile artillery and the anti-aircraft gun.

The 16-inch howitzers are designed to be shipped by railroad or by motor truck and to be fired from specially built emplacements or from special railroad cars. Where railroad lines run along the seacoast it is planned to run from the main track a series of curved spurs, from which the big guns could fire at any seaward angle in line with the tracks. In this the tremendous recoil of the big guns could be taken up not only by recoil springs, but by allowing the car to roll backward under the force of the explosion. The War Department is now experimenting along these lines.

As an immediate additional protection for New York and other large cities in the present seacoast fortifications, pending the building of 16-inch guns and 16-inch mortars, 12-inch guns with an extended angle of elevation and increased range will be provided at once. The experts believe that these guns, with their increased range, will protect our coast defenses from the most extreme long-range battleship fire.

Work will be started at once on the New York defenses, and the 12-inch guns will be installed as rapidly as conditions permit. The complete plans call for new defenses at New York mounting 16 16-inch guns, four of the new 12-inch guns and 24 16-inch mortars.

A new fortification is planned at Cape Henry to guard the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, and it will be started at once, according to the program. It will mount four 16-inch guns and eight 16-inch mortars.

Spanish Ship Damaged by Fire

TOULON, France, Dec. 14.—Fire caused heavy damage aboard the Spanish steamship Antonio Lopez today. Only part of its cargo of tobacco from Havana was saved.

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WHERE THE IRISH HELD

The map shows how the Irish regiments, whose position is indicated by a star, held back the enemy in southern Serbia until the French, whose line of retreat is marked by arrows, could reach safety. If the Bulgars had been able to drive the British across the railroad, the French would have been cut off.

INTERN ALLIES, IS KAISER'S DEMAND

Continued from Page One

The German General Staff, which is directing the movement of the Bulgarians and Austro-Hungarian forces as well as those of the Germans, is evidently determined to strike hard and fast at the Allies before they can receive any considerable number of fresh reinforcements.

Official advices from Berlin and Sofia show that the heaviest fighting for the last few days has centered around Lake Doiran and the Vardar Valley. The French have been holding the left end of the Allies' line, the British have been holding the right and a mixed force of French, British and Serbians have been maintaining the center.

ALLIES' SHORTEN LINE.

By the loss of Gjevegl and Dolran the Allies have had to contract and shorten their line. This was not only necessary for strategic purpose, but was compulsory by reason of the nature of the ground across which the allied retreat was conducted. The new battlefield is no different, so far as topography is concerned, from the old. The country is mountainous, sparsely populated and thinly wooded.

The following Central News dispatch from the Hague is the first mention of any disintegration of spoils:

"Austria and Bulgaria are reported to be discrediting over the division of Serbia. Bulgaria demands the frontier running from Kludovo and Kraljevo, thence to Novibair and along the Albanian border."

BERLIN, Dec. 14.—Capture of 2500 Montenegrin prisoners by the Austrian army was announced in an official statement from the German War Office this afternoon. Southwest and south of Plovice the Austrians forced the enemy to withdraw.

ALLIES' RETREAT OPEN TO BASE AT SALONICA

LONDON, Dec. 14.

By an arrangement with the Greek Government, a clear road has been left for the British and French troops, who have carried out their retirement from Serbia across the Greek frontier, to fall back on Salonica, which is being organized as a base.

According to a dispatch from Athens to Reuter's Telegram Company, King Constantine in the course of an audience granted the members of the diplomatic body at Athens on Saturday gave personal assurances which are regarded as satisfactory.

Another dispatch to Reuter's, filed in Athens yesterday, says:

"As a result of the agreement between the Greek General Staff and the allied generals the division of the Greek army which has been stationed at Lankana, has been withdrawn to Seres, about 50 miles northeast of Salonica. The zone between Salonica and Doiran has been left free for movements of the allied troops."

"The allied military authorities today took over the portion of the Custom House at Salonica."

A force of 10,000 Bulgarians and an equal number of Austro-Germans is being concentrated between Monastir and the Greek frontier, according to a dispatch to the Times from Salonica. This force is said to include a considerable number of cavalry troops.

The German official report of today claims that "approximately two English divisions" were annihilated during the retreat, but this is considered here an exaggeration. Accounts from Athens and Salonica say the retreat was carried out in an orderly manner and without heavy losses. By the destruction of railway bridges and roads and by the stubborn rearguard actions the Bulgarians were kept at a fairly safe distance.

The question now arises whether the Bulgarians and Austro-Germans intend to follow the British and French troops into Greece, and what action the Greek Government will take should they do so. The impression gained from Athens dispatches is that neither the Bulgarians nor the Turks, who also are reported to have arrived near the frontier, would be welcomed in Greece, and that therefore, if it is decided to follow the Entente Allies the task will be undertaken by Austrians and Germans.

GERMAN BARON, PLOT SUSPECT, UNDER ARREST

Attache Von Brincken, With Two Associates, Indicted in San Francisco

SECRET CIPHER SOLVED

New Evidence That Von Rintelen Backed Peace Council Obtained

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.

Three new angles of the activities of German plotters came to the fore today and further developments are expected.

Baron George Wilhelm von Brincken, attache of the local German Consulate; C. C. Crowley and Mrs. Margaret Cornell, Crowley's secretary, who were indicted by the Federal Grand Jury charged with sending letters through the mails tending to incite arson, murder or assassination, surrendered today to the Federal authorities, pending the making of bonds for their release.

In San Francisco Baron George Wilhelm von Brincken, an attache of the German consulate there; C. C. Crowley, a detective employed by the consulate, and Mrs. Abbie Cornell, who was in Crowley's employ, were indicted.

There were two counts. The first count charged conspiracy to interfere with and destroy commerce between the several States of the Union and the United States and foreign countries.

The second charge use of the mails to incite arson, assassination and murder. Bail was fixed at \$500 on each count. Counsel for the defendants, all of whom had been arrested previously, promised to appear in court today.

Baron von Brincken and Crowley were previously charged in warrants with conspiracy to interfere with and destroy commerce. They have been at liberty on \$1000 bail.

The overt acts set forth in the indictments were not disclosed last night.

It was charged at the time of Crowley's arrest on November 25 that he was a directing agent in German plots to destroy by fire and dynamite ships bearing munitions to Great Britain, France and Russia.

An explosion of a large quantity of dynamite in Seattle harbor last May was charged to him by Government agents.

Crowley's operations, the Government charges, extended throughout the United States. That he consulted frequently with superiors in New York and vicinity is also alleged.

Federal agents in this city have in their possession today much additional and valuable evidence relative to the activities of the organization known as Labor's National Peace Council, of which Congressman Frank Buchanan, of Illinois, was for a time the president, and of which ex-Congressman H. Roloff Fowler, also of Illinois, is the general counsel.

United States District Attorney H. Snowden Marshall has admitted that he has evidence to prove the count was financed by money furnished by Franz von Rintelen, the German agent now in the Tower of London, through David Lamm, the promoter, who is known in the financial district as "the wolf of Wall street."

The new evidence, obtained yesterday, consists of all the German plots for the "Peace Council," which were voluntarily turned over to District Attorney Marshall by Louis P. Straube, secretary of the organization. It was admitted the books and other documents would be submitted to the Grand Jury either the latter part of the present week or early next week.

It is not denied by Federal authorities that Straube has become a witness for the Government, and there is every reason to believe at least five persons who were identified with the council will probably be indicted within the next 10 days or two weeks. At least two of these men are nationally prominent.

NEGRO CONFESSES MURDER OF AGED HORSE BREEDER

Buried Body of His Victim in a Box Stall

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Willie Turner, a negro, today confessed, according to the United States marshal, to the murder of Avery, an aged horse breeder, at Gainesville, Fla., on November 26, and buried the body in a box stall.

The negro came to Washington today bringing with him two valuable horses. His efforts to sell the horses cheaply led to his arrest.

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U. S. WILL SEND PROTEST TO FRANCE ON SHIPPING

Search of American Vessels by Cruiser and Release of Prisoners Demanded

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Following the Cabinet meeting today it was learned that this Government will send immediately a note to France protesting vigorously against the action of the commander of the French cruiser Descartes in holding up and searching American vessels in the vicinity of the West Indies.

It was stated on reliable authority that the note will demand that the French Government order at once the release of the Germans taken from the American ships Coamo and Carolina. The Cabinet discussed the French note at length, and it was determined to make it fully as vigorous as the one sent to Great Britain protesting against her interference with American trade.

KING GEORGE AT WORK AFTER GRAVE INJURIES

Physicians Issue Bulletin Stating Monarch Has Recovered After Two Months' Illness

That King George of England was more seriously injured by a fall from his horse, while reviewing troops in France last October, than was at first reported is revealed by a dispatch from London. Sir Frederick Treves, surgeon-general to his Majesty, and Sir Bertrand Dawson, physician extraordinary to the King, issued a bulletin stating that King George has so far recovered that he was able to resume work with certain limitations.

The first intimation that the King's condition was more critical than was publicly announced was received in this country several days ago. Sidney Ormond, secretary to the Marquis of Athlone, received a letter from his sister, Mrs. Alice Ormond Campbell, in England, which said that Mrs. Campbell had been informed by Lady Trowbridge, sister of the King, that the King had been severely injured when he was riding on the Queen, that the King had been strapped to his bed for several weeks and that X-ray examinations revealed that he was suffering from such severe internal injuries that he was considered to be in a very serious condition.

When the accident occurred, on October 28, the King was immediately taken to a base hospital, "somewhere in France," where he remained for nearly two weeks before being taken to London. It was then announced that his injuries were not serious.

ITALIANS WIN TRENCH NEAR GORIZIA IN FOG

Rome Reports Austrian Infantry Beaten Back After Attack With Heavy Gunfire

ROME, Dec. 14.—On the Isonzo front and in Carso the enemy displayed great artillery activity," the War Office announced last night.

Toward midnight his infantry delivered attacks in the direction of Oslavia and Selz, but the attacks were repulsed with heavy losses.

"On the southern slope of the Calvario Heights west of Gorizia, our detachments, favored by fog, captured an enemy trench, taking some 20 rifles and much other material which was abandoned by the fleeing enemy."

Maple Hotel, Long Branch, Burns

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Dec. 14.—Fire, believed to be of incendiary origin, early today destroyed the Maple Hotel, a three-story frame structure. The loss was \$30,000.

HARD WINTER FACES BRITISH IN TRENCHES

Letter From Former Philadelphian Tells of Suffering of Soldiers

The English soldiers anticipate another severe winter campaign in the trenches, with its accompanying hardships. This is the information contained in a letter received the other day by Joseph Goodman, of 35 Brandywine street, from his brother, Samuel Goodman, a member of the British expeditionary force in France.

The scarcity of clothes for the members of this force is also mentioned, as well as an incident in which several British soldiers almost lost their lives, because of an error in directing the fire of a cannon, and it is problematical how the mistake ever evaded the strict censorship maintained by the English authorities.

Goodman is a former Philadelphian, although born in England. He is 23 years old. He was in this country at the outbreak of hostilities, but immediately sailed for England and entered his regiment, the First King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. This regiment is now attached to the Fourth Entrenching Battalion in the Argonne district, where some of the fiercest fighting of the war has been waged.

The letter is postmarked Field Post-office and the only information, in so far as the letter is concerned, that would give any information as to the exact point where it was mailed is on the face of the envelope, where a large letter "F" is stamped. The whole section is divided into postoffice districts, and each letter of the alphabet designates some section on the firing line. Of course, the key to this alphabet is secret.

The text of the letter follows:

"In the Field, November 2nd.

"Dear Brother—

"Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living, and in fairly good health. I hope you have received the last letter I wrote you about six weeks ago. Well, as you can guess, life out here is not a bed of roses. It is very, very rough and all of the nine weeks I have been here in France, I

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do not know what it will be like out here next month. I hope it will all be over by that time. I have very little more to tell you, so give my best love to everyone."

Goodman's parents live at 28 Oxford street, Stretchley, a town 200 miles from London. His two sisters, Eva and Hetty, are with the Red Cross.

Italian Parliament Adjourns

ROME, Dec. 14.—Parliament adjourned last night until March 1. All the Deputies, except the Socialists, cheered for the Government when adjournment was taken. During the last session Deputy Altobelli delivered an address in memory of Edith Cavell, the English nurse, executed by the Germans at Brussels.

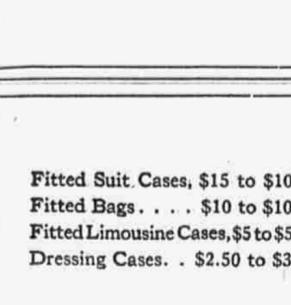


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