

BRITAIN AT MIDNIGHT DECLARES WAR ON AUSTRIA

CRUISERS IN SEA BATTLE NEAR MAINE

British Suffolk Sends a Wireless of Victory Over German.

HUNDREDS SEE FIGHT

Roar of Guns Heard by Summer Residents of New Hampshire Resorts.

Special to The Washington Herald. Boston, Aug. 12.—A wireless dispatch picked up at radio stations along the New England Coast late this afternoon stated that the British cruiser Suffolk had defeated a German warship in a terrific encounter ten miles off Portsmouth, N. H., harbor today.

The Suffolk claimed to have won the victory over the German ship. The latter craft was said to be in a sinking condition.

Summer residents at the Isle of Shoals, off the New Hampshire coast, over the long distance telephone said they had plainly seen the two warships in action; had seen the smoke from their guns and had heard the roar of the guns.

The name given the German craft in the wireless report was Umbago.

No such name is given in the registry of the German navy. This was explained by naval experts as probably being the code name of the German ship.

Hundreds View Battle. The battle began at 2:30 and continued through the entire afternoon. The firing was still going on after the Suffolk had sent its claim to victory just before twilight. The booming of the guns was heard as far south as Salisbury and Rye Beaches and northward along the Maine coast as far as York Beach.

It is believed the Suffolk—if its story of the defeat of the German warship be true—would either sink the latter or else take her in tow. It was thought possible its temporary destination might be Portsmouth.

At the Isle of Shoals several hundred gathered up on the shores to witness the spectacular sight.

The Suffolk is believed to have been the British cruiser sighted off Cape Anne early today by the Gov. Dingsey of the Eastern Steamship Company fleet.

When the Dingsey put into Portland today she told of having seen the cruiser and of having also seen a German merchantman off Boons Island some time afterward.

Carries Six-Inch Gun. The cruiser, in pursuing the German merchantman, may have run into the German warship.

The Suffolk is an armored cruiser with a displacement of 91,800 tons. She has two screws, two turrets, three funnels and two masts. Her armor is of steel and a maximum thickness of four inches and a minimum of two inches. She has a protected deck about the bulkheads. The Suffolk carries four six-inch guns in turrets, ten six-inch guns in casemates and other guns of smaller caliber. She has two submerged tubes and six searchlights.

Several stations picked up the news of the fight and the Suffolk's claim of victory.

New York, Aug. 12.—Two foreign cruisers are operating close to the American coast. The Norwegian tank steamer Conrad Mohr was halted off Nantucket last night by a warship which fired across her bow. After stating his boat's name and nationality, the captain was allowed to proceed.

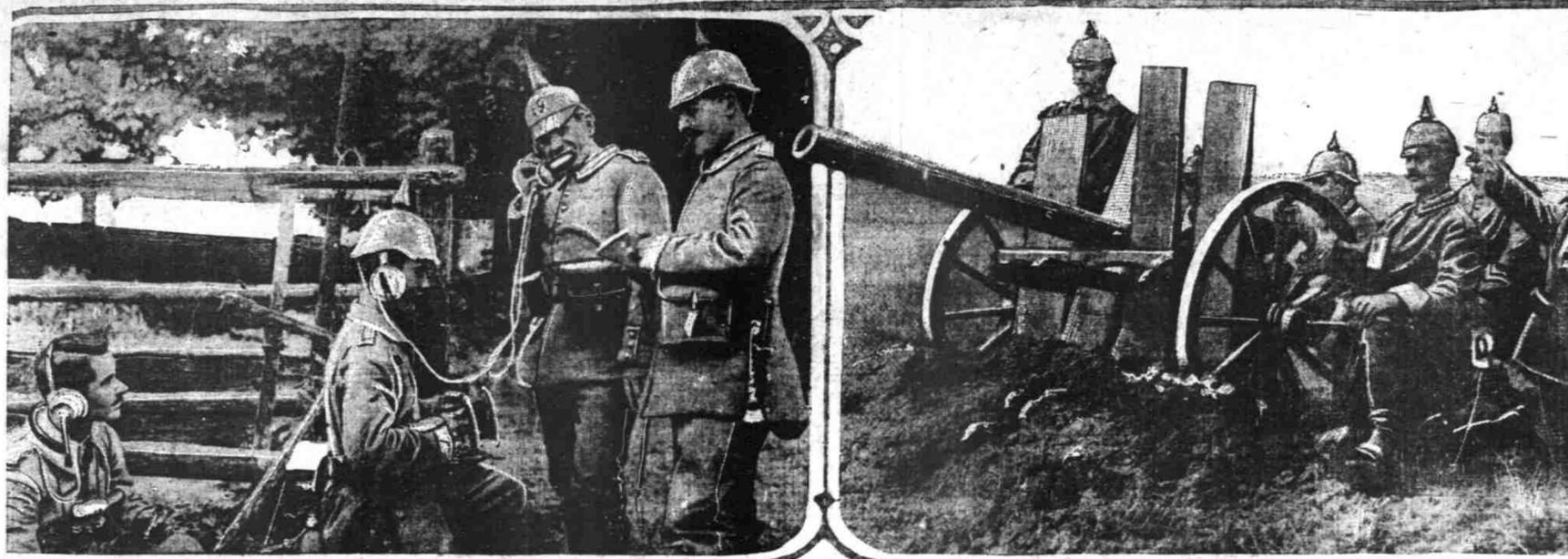
Off Nantucket Point she was stopped in a similar manner by another cruiser.

German Off California. San Francisco, Aug. 12.—The German cruisers Nuremberg and Leipzig are reported cruising off the Farallone Islands by captains of several ships that docked here today.

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 12.—While hundreds of summer vacationists lined the beach at Tybee today, a British cruiser chased the German steamer Huelva for five miles. The pursuit was abandoned when the German ship got into the shadow of Fort...

HOW GERMAN SOLDIERS WORK ON BATTLEFIELDS

Left photograph shows German officer listening through a field telephone. During movement network of wires connects whole front of army so that commander can send orders direct to officers at different important points. Right photograph shows dummy piece of field artillery used to cloak movements of actual battery of artillery. Often a whole row of these "scarecrows" is erected for purpose of deceiving enemy.



GERMAN ARMY MOVEMENT SHROUDED IN MYSTERY AS NAMUR IS INVESTED

Forces of Allies May Clash With Tremendous Army Of Invasion Today In Momentous Belgian Battle---Cavalry Active.

By DR. E. J. DILLON, Special War Correspondent of The Washington Herald and the London Daily Telegraph.

Brussels, Aug. 12.—It is still impossible to throw any light upon military operations which may culminate Thursday or Friday in a terrific collision between the forces of disruption and those of civilization. Never before, not even during the Japanese campaign against Russia, have movements of an army been shrouded with such impenetrable mystery, considering the number, the audacity, and the ingenuity of German agents. Still, in Belgium these precautions may be indispensable.

Another fact which is beginning to dawn upon the public is that the heroic resistance of the Belgian army was offered hitherto to covering troops only.

Although three German army corps have been thoroughly beaten, it is believed here that the hostile main armies may be ready any time after tomorrow night.

Yesterday several detachments of the covering troops were sent forward to Belgian advanced posts as feelers.

FORCE OF GERMAN CAVALRY ATTACKS LANCERS WITH QUICK-FIRING GUNS

A fight of importance occurred at Tirlemont, where 1,000 German cavalry with quick-firing guns, mounted on horses, attacked the regiment of Belgian lancers. It is believed to be the first time that quick-firing guns were used in such a manner. The Belgians were driven off, with a loss of two officers and a small number of men killed and wounded.

The German cavalry, which spread itself out over a front extending from St. Trond to Hannut, at the same time sending detachments in the direction of Tirlemont, Hougaerde and Jodoigne, have fallen back except at one point, where they are keeping in contact with the Belgians.

GERMANS INTRENCHING THEMSELVES ALONG MAESTRICHT-LIEGE FRONT

The German general staff has installed itself in the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Liege, which is strongly barricaded. The Germans are also accumulating quantities of flour in case they should find themselves invested instead of being the besiegers.

They are entrenching along the Maestricht-Liege front. Hundreds of peasants are being employed in road work south through the provinces of Liege and Luxembourg, foreshadowing, it is believed, an attempt to force their way to the south of the Ouerthe and toward the upper Meuse, in France.

It was officially announced during the day that there had been several outpost engagements between the Belgians and

MILLION MEN IN ARMS ALONG THE TWO FRONTIERS

Decisive Battles Expected Between Brussels and Verdun Line.

By C. F. BERTELLI, Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald.

Special Cable to Washington Herald. Paris, Aug. 11.—(Delayed)—A million soldiers will face each other on either side of the Franco-German frontier.

The armies are about equal in number, but there is no doubt that the moral of the French troops is far superior.

The utmost confidence and stamina will be needed on both sides, because some of the impending battles are expected to last several days, and perhaps a fortnight. The frontier country lends itself to heroic exploits. It consists entirely of mountainous roads, bordered on either side by dense woods.

The carrying of two frontier passes by the French troops gives them an enormous advantage as far as Upper Alsace is concerned.

Down at Meulhausen the French troops have been withdrawn to defensive positions, and are preventing the Germans from returning to town.

With 600,000 men forming the German central force between Liege and Thionville, it is now practically certain that the most decisive fighting will take place between Brussels and Verdun.

If France does not carry this titanic struggle into Lorraine, she will aim at checking the entire German advance until the end of August, when Russia's millions will pour across the western frontier, where Germany has left her weakest fighting men because she hoped to strike a vital blow at France within a fortnight and then turn her finest troops against Russia.

Paris, Aug. 12.—Prince Louis Napoleon has sent a letter to President Poincare, demanding that he be permitted to serve under the French flag, and adding that, if his request is refused, he will return to Russia, where he was a general of division.

Authoritative War Dispatches of the London Times and the London Daily Telegraph. Exclusively in The Washington Herald. Most Accurate and Complete War Reports Every Day.

LATEST WAR BULLETINS

London, Aug. 13.—According to a Central News dispatch the American Ambassador James W. Girard left Berlin at 12:40 o'clock this morning bound for the frontier. He is en route for Holland.

Berlin Via London, Aug. 13.—Ten French officers, five hundred men, four guns, many rifles, and ten wagons have been captured by the Germans near Meulhausen. At Lagarde the Germans captured a thousand prisoners. They belonged entirely to two French regiments. The statement is made that there are no more French on German territory.

Nish, Aug. 12.—The Austrian bombardment of Belgrade was resumed today. The heavy Austrian artillery did great damage.

The Serbs and Montenegrins are co-operating against Bosnia. Gorashda is being shelled by the Serbian artillery.

Three allied columns are moving into Bosnian territory.

Paris, Aug. 12.—The war ministry today issued the following official announcement: "The best answer to the report that the French lost 20,000 men at Altkirch is that the total number of active French troops does not reach that number."

A considerable number of French troops are being sent into Upper Alsace."

Brussels, Aug. 12.—The advance of the German army at the very heart of Belgium has begun. The movement is north of Liege and is masked by a heavy force of cavalry along the whole front of the allied armies.

A regiment of Dragoons attempted to surprise the Belgians at Aineffe, but were repulsed, suffering a loss of 153 dead and 102 prisoners taken.

Montenegro Breaks with Germany, Vienna Hears

Vienna, Aug. 12.—The newspapers state that Montenegro has handed the German minister his passports and he has left the country. The announcement of a formal declaration of war is expected.

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Aug. 12.—Fearing that attempts might be made to blow up the Canadian power plants here, a military guard was placed over them today. The plants here furnish light and power to about fifty towns.

Guard Niagara Power Plants

Summer Tours via Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Daily to Jersey Seashore, Adirondack Mountains and all New York, New England and Canadian Provinces—Nova Scotia and Quebec, and Alleghany Mountain Resorts, also to Western Pointa. If contemplating rail or water trip for pleasure or on business, consult agents at 15th St. and N. Y. ave., or 119 Pennsylvania ave. They will help you.—Adv.

RUSSIA HASTENS MOBILIZATION OF FINNISH TROOPS

Germans Attack Libau from Land—Towns and Farms Burn.

Py Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald and the London Daily Telegraph.

Special Cable to Washington Herald. Stockholm, Aug. 12.—From several sources comes the news that Russia's mobilization in Finland has taken place very rapidly.

From the north of Finland all the artillery seems to be directed toward Russia proper.

At Boesker Light House, the Russians smashed with a large hammer lenses worth 60,000 kroner apiece, although the lenses could have been taken out and conveyed to Mariehamn very quickly.

Harbor Is Mined. The exceedingly costly harbor works at Hange seem to have been blown up by mistake. The commander has been ordered to mine the harbor and blow up the pier only in case of imminent danger. After having, in a nervous fit, blown up the harbor, seeing his mistake, the commander committed suicide.

The Russians have requisitioned all horses and motorcars in Finland. The Russians were still master of the Gulf of Finland on Saturday.

A Russian-Swedish sea captain, who has just come from Libau, states that last Wednesday all along the coast towns and farms were burning, cannons roared across the waters, and land mines were being exploded. The captain believed that German troops were attacking Libau from the land.

The captain of the Danish schooner Peter, arrived at Gothland from Libau, corroborates the stories of the sad condition at Libau.

Windau has been burned by the Russians. A high diplomatist says that Germany and Austria made many attempts to induce Sweden to join the Triple Alliance, but Sweden has resolved on neutrality.

Libau, which, according to the above dispatch, appears to have been attacked by Germans from the land, lies on the Baltic coast, about forty miles north of the German frontier.

Windau, which is reported to have been burned by the Russians, is also on the Baltic coast, and is more than 100 miles north of the German border.

GUARD NIAGARA POWER PLANTS

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Aug. 12.—Fearing that attempts might be made to blow up the Canadian power plants here, a military guard was placed over them today. The plants here furnish light and power to about fifty towns.

Hotel Woodstock, New York City. Comfort Without Extravagance.—Adv.

WAR DECLARED AGAINST AUSTRIA-HUNGARY BY BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE

Rupture With France Precipitated Communication to Ambassador---Russian Soldiers Defeat the Austrians.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Aug. 13.—(1 a. m.)—Declaration that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Austria-Hungary as from midnight of August 12, has just been issued by the foreign office.

The declaration was precipitated, according to an official announcement of the foreign office, by the request of the French government that his majesty's government communicate to the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at London the following declaration:

"After having declared war on Serbia and having thus taken the initiative in the hostilities in Europe, the Austro-Hungarian government has placed itself, without any provocation from the government of the French republic, in a state of war with France, and after Germany has successively declared war against Russia and France, she has intervened in this conflict by declaring war on Russia, who already was fighting on the side of France.

"According to information worthy of belief, Hungary has sent troops over the German frontier in such a manner as to constitute a direct menace against France.

Ambassador Leaves Today. "In the face of these facts the French government finds itself obliged to declare to the Austro-Hungarian government that it will take all measures necessary to reply to these acts and menaces."

The foreign office statement continues: "Communicating this declaration accordingly to the Austro-Hungarian ambassador, his majesty's government has declared to his excellency that the rupture with France having been brought about in this way, it feels itself obliged to announce that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Austria-Hungary as from midnight."

Official arrangements have been made for the Austro-Hungarian ambassador and his personal retinue to leave London tomorrow.

London, Aug. 12.—A telegram to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Paris says a dispatch to the Matin from St. Petersburg reports that in an official communication the Russian chief of staff has announced that the Austrians were defeated at Zolotchick, Volotchick and Zborje. Four regiments of Austrian infantry and eighty Uhlans were routed. The prediction is added that the approaching big battle probably will be decisive.

SKIRMISHES FORECAST BIG BATTLE; AUSTRIA TRIES TO BRIBE ITALY

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. London, Aug. 12.—The London Times summary of the latest news this (Thursday) morning includes the following: "On the Belgian frontier the meeting of the two great armies which for the past week have been slowly moving to ordered positions, still impends. Along the whole front constant cavalry encounters show that the main bodies are gradually coming into touch."

"Further south desultory meetings of the advanced guards of either side still fill the valleys of Lorraine and Alsace with sporadic fighting."

"Around Altkirch and Meulhausen the French appear to be holding their own. Austria-Hungary is said to be attempting to buy the help of Italy by offering her Savoy, Nice, Corsica, and Tunis as the price of active hostilities against France. Russian troops are invading Austrian territory."

"Our correspondent at Sophia announces that Bulgaria is still firm in her decision to remain neutral."

"In the North Sea there is less certainty of safety for merchant shipping. The Germans are known to have scattered mines indiscriminately. This is also the theater where naval hostilities may take place at any moment."

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