

# Three Battleships Sent to the Bottom

## British Irresistible and Ocean and French Bouvet Sunk by Floating Mines While in Terrific Attack Upon Dardanelles Forts—Crew of Last Named Lost

THREE BATTLE SHIPS—handset—London, March 19.—(The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines while engaged with the remainder of the allied fleet in attacking the forts in the narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

Virtually all the crews of the two British ships were saved, having been transferred to other ships, under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine and most of her crew was lost. The Bouvet sank three minutes after she hit the mine.

The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines but the British admiralty asserts that the Turks and Germans set floating containers of explosives afloat, and these were carried down by the current on to the allied ships gathered inside the entrance of the straits.

### All Old Ships.

All the ships sunk were old ones. The Bouvet was built nearly 20 years ago and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1898. They were useful, however, for the work in which they were engaged in the Dardanelles. The sunken British ships are being replaced by the battle ships Queen and Implacable, vessels of a similar type. They are said to have started some time ago in anticipation of just such losses as have now occurred. Two other ships, the British battle cruiser Infexible and the French battleship Gaulois, were hit by shells and damaged. British casualties, according to the British official report, "were not heavy considering the scale of operations."

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not been ascertained. It is said that operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked are those on each side of Kephez bay and on Kephez point outside the narrows and those on Kalidbahr and Chanak in the narrows.

### Answer Strongly.

The Kephez forts replied strongly when the battle ships advanced up the Dardanelles and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that these forts finally were silenced and a bombardment of those in the narrows was under way when the three battle ships hit the mines. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood the engagement was resumed today.

The admiralty tonight gave out the following statement:

"An account of the operations at the Dardanelles on the 18th of March: "Mine sweeping having been in progress during the last ten days inside the straits, a general attack was delivered by the British and French fleet yesterday (Thursday) morning upon the fortresses at the narrows. At 10:45 a. m. the Queen Elizabeth, Infexible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson bombarded Forts J. L. T. U and V, while the Triumph and Prince George fired at batteries F, E and H. A heavy fire was opened on the ships from howitzers and field guns. At 12:22 o'clock the French squadron, consisting of the Suffren, Gaulois, Charlemagne and Bouvet, advanced upon the Dardanelles and engaged the forts at closer range. Forts J, U, F and E replied strongly. Their fire was silenced by the ten battleships inside the straits, all the ships being hit several times during this part of the action.

### Forts Silenced.

"By 1:25 p. m. all the forts had

ceased firing. The Vengeance, Irresistible, Albion, Ocean, Swiftsure and Majestic then advanced to relieve the six other battleships inside the straits. As the French squadron, which had engaged the forts in a most brilliant fashion, was passing out, the Bouvet was blown up by a drifting mine. She sank in 56 fathoms, north of Erenkeu village, in less than three minutes.

"At 2:36 p. m. the relief battleships renewed the attack on the forts, which again opened fire. The attack on the forts was maintained while the operations of the mine sweepers continued.

"At 4:09 p. m. the Irresistible quit the line, listing heavily, and at 5:50 o'clock sank, probably having struck a drifting mine. At 6:05 o'clock the Ocean, also having struck a mine, sank. Both the vessels sank in deep water, virtually the whole of their crews having been removed safely under a hot fire.

"The Gaulois was damaged by gun fire. The Infexible had her forward control position hit by a heavy shell and requires repairs.

"The bombardment of the forts and the mine sweeping operations terminated when darkness fell. The damage to the forts effected by the prolonged direct fire of the powerful forces employed can not be estimated yet and further report will follow. The loss of the ships was caused by mines drifting with the current, which were encountered in an area hitherto swept clear, and this danger will require special treatment.

"The British casualties were not heavy, considering the scale of the operations, but virtually the whole of the crew of the Bouvet were lost with the ship, an internal explosion apparently having supervened on the explosion of the mine.

"The Queen and Implacable, which have been dispatched from England to replace the ships lost in anticipation of this operation, are due to arrive immediately, thus bringing the British fleet up to its original strength. The operations are continuing with the naval and military forces available on the spot.

"On the 16th inst., Vice Admiral Carden, who had been incapacitated by illness, was succeeded in the chief command by Rear Admiral John Michael de Dobeck, with the acting rank of vice admiral."

The British battleship Irresistible was commanded by Capt. the Hon. Stanhope Hawke and in time of peace carried a complement of 780 men. She was the largest of the three allied battleships sunk, being of 15,000 tons displacement and 430 feet long. She carried four 12-inch and 12 6-inch guns, 16 12-pounders, 6 3-pounders, 2 maxims and 4 submerged torpedo tubes and was protected by Krupp armor. Her speed was 18 knots an hour. She was built in 1898 at a cost of \$5,000,000.

The Ocean was commanded by Capt. Arthur Hayes-Sadler and had a crew of 750. She was 418 feet long and of 12,950 tons displacement. Her armament was composed of four 12-inch guns and 12 6-inch guns, 10 12-pounders, six 3-pounders, two maxims and four submerged torpedo tubes and her armor was of Harvey nickel make. She was of 18 knots speed and was built in 1898.

The Bouvet, 12,000 tons, was laid down in 1898. Her complement was 621 men and her armament consisted of two 12-inch guns, two 10.8-inch, three 5.5-inch, eight 3.9-inch, ten three-pounders and ten one-pounders, besides two torpedo tubes.

## RE-ENTER STRAITS AFTER DISASTER

### ALLIED WARSHIPS RETURN TO THE CHARGE.

Find Conditions Too Bad to Accomplish Much Against Powerful Forts of Dardanelles.

London, March 20.—Six battleships re-entered the Dardanelles straits Friday, according to a dispatch received here by the Reuter Telegram company from the island of Tenedos.

This resumption of the action after the loss Thursday of the French battleship Bouvet and the British battleships Irresistible and Ocean, failed to accomplish anything for the reason that the unfavorable weather conditions made operations impossible.

### Only One "BROMO QUININE"

To get the genuine, call for full name, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for signature of R. W. GROVE. Cures a Cold in One Day. Stops cough and headache, and works of, cold. 25c.

## NOTED SPEAKERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Plans of Last Sunday School Superintendent Will be Followed to the Letter, Says Committee.

Spartanburg Herald, 26th.

Several men of national prominence will make addresses at the South Carolina Interdenominational Sunday school convention, to be held in New-nouncements yesterday from the Rev. W. H. K. Pendleton, acting secretary.

Among the speakers announced so far are Richard I. Manning, governor of South Carolina; Dr. Joseph Broughton, of Atlanta, president of the Georgia Sunday School association, and Dr. William A. Brown, of Chicago, missionary secretary of the international association. A detailed program for the convention will probably be announced within the next few days.

Members of the central committee said last night that there had been some feeling of apprehension that, since the death of the Rev. John C. Carman, secretary of the convention, there might possibly be some halt in

the work, but that this would by no means be the case.

A meeting of the central committee was held Thursday to take steps for a prosecution of the work planned by the late secretary, Rev. John C. Carman. At this meeting it was determined not to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Carman until the meeting of the full executive committee at the convention to be held in Newberry April 20 to 22.

### Mr. Pendleton to Serve.

In order to meet the present emergency, the Rev. W. H. K. Pendleton, upon motion of the Rev. W. I. Herbert, accepted the appointment of acting general secretary, without salary, until the time of the convention. The

elementary superintendent, Mrs. S. N. Burts, was employed as assistant secretary until the time of the convention. Mr. Pendleton and Mrs. Burts, with the assistance of the rest of the committee and of Miss Cora Holland, office secretary, are pushing steadily forward in plans for the coming convention, which promises, they stated last night, to be one of the best ever held in the State.

In recognition of Mr. Carman's faithful services to the association, the committee unanimously ordered his salary for the month of March to be paid in full to Mrs. Carman.

### Work Not to Be Checked.

"The plans for the convention, upon which Mr. Carman had set his heart,

will be carried out to the letter," said Mr. Pendleton last night, "by those who have assumed this responsibility. We have no idea of checking the work in the slightest."

Mr. Pendleton and Mrs. Burts visited Newberry a few days ago to make preliminary arrangements for the convention, and found the people hospitably inclined and ready to do all in their power to make the convention a great occasion.

Several applications have been received for the position of general secretary, and these will be placed before the entire committee of 54 at the convention.

### Buy Equipment.

Report from Whitmire, S. C., states that the Glenn-Lowry Manufacturing company, print cloths, has purchased 125 Stafford looms to take the place of the old equipment. The Hamilton Carhart cotton mills, Rock Hill, S. C., denims, are reported to have purchased 150 Draper looms from the Glenn-Lowry company, and to be considering the purchase of an additional 2,500 spindles.

The Indiana legislature killed 101 bill in 15 minutes. This almost makes us regret all the harsh things we have said about legislatures.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

Promptly at Nine Minutes Past Nine O'clock Wednesday Morning, March 24th, we will sell nine yards of beautiful Gingham for 9c.

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## Read! Ponder! Digest! Realize! Profit!

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## FREE! FREE!

One 48 pound sack of Flour will be given away each day during sale ABSOLUTELY FREE.

With each 50c purchase we give a coupon; these ticket coupons are in duplicate numbers, the one holding the lucky number will receive a sack of Flour FREE each day at 4 P. M.

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