

## 74 DEAD, 147 INJURED, TOLL OF RAID BY GERMANS ON ENGLISH COAST CITIES

### Scores of Houses in the Two Hartlepoons Were Wrecked and Scarcely One of the Large Factories in Both Towns Escaped the Flying Shells—Many Ships in the Harbor Damaged

London, Dec. 17, 11:45 A. M.—The casualties at Hartlepool as a result of the German naval raid, according to an official bureau statement to-day were 55 persons killed and 115 wounded.

Unofficial reports have indicated that 17 were killed and 30 wounded at Scarborough as a result of the bombardment there and that at Whitby two were killed and two were injured.

As a result of the raid most of the coast towns of England and many inland towns are adopting the strictest precautions. Street lights have been reduced to the utmost and all along the coast a sharp lookout is maintained.

#### Majority of Victims Civilians

Middlesboro, Eng., Dec. 17, Via London, 3:20 A. M.—Latest returns of the killed and wounded as the result of the German naval raid show that at Hartlepool 29 were killed and 50 injured, while at West Hartlepool 19 were killed and 80 injured. Of the wounded twenty are housed at the military hospital in Masonic Hall and fifty in the Cameron Hospital.

The majority of the victims were civilians. About eight of the killed and 37 of the wounded were men engaged in coast defense work but of the remainder the bulk were civilians who were shot while at work in the streets or while in their own homes.

Scores of houses in the two Hartlepoons have been wrecked and scarcely one of the large factories in the two towns escaped damage. The telephone service is completely disorganized.

#### Gas Holders Out of Business

The gas works were shelled with exceptional severity and every gas holder was put out of commission. Several churches and schools also suffered from the enemy's fire.

East Hartlepool suffered the most in the bombardment but there was also much damage done in West Hartlepool. Many ships in the harbor were damaged including the steamer Diobola, detained since the outbreak of the war, which was completely pierced by a shell.

At West Garth, in the engineering works, two workmen were killed and three other persons were killed in the streets.

#### Single Shell Killed Nine Men

In Dover street, West Hartlepool, which is right in the heart of the business center, a shell carried away the entrance of a cottage and killed the occupant, an old woman, named Mrs. Moon. Shells fell indiscriminately in all parts of the town. Special constables were called out and ambulance men and doctors were quickly on the scene. Not a moment was lost in giving aid to the wounded.

The firing is said to have been very accurate. In one case a single shell killed nine men and in another instance three men were killed and eleven wounded. Another shell killed a whole family and there are many instances where several persons in a house were killed together.

The populace is quiet and has evidently been reassured by the proclamation of the mayor of West Hartlepool, Councillor Fryer, requesting the civil population to keep their houses as far as possible for the present.

The nearest parallel to the visit of yesterday is found in the activities of John Paul Jones, the terror of English shipping, who menaced English coast towns in 1779.

#### GREAT BATTLE BEING WAGED 30 MILES WEST OF WARSAW

Warsaw, Dec. 17, Via London, 4:20 P. M.—A great battle is in progress at Sochaczew, 30 miles west of Warsaw.

The German wedge which is proceeding in a southeasterly direction from flow has managed, after heavy fighting, in which serious losses are reported to have been inflicted, to establish itself a quarter of a mile west of Sochaczew. The Polish campaign now centers at that point.

## AUSTRIANS INFLICT BIG DEFEAT UPON RUSSIANS; TAKE 31,000 PRISONERS

Berlin, Dec. 17, By Wireless to Sayville.—A statement given out to-day by the German official press bureau says: "The Austrian general staff reports that 31,000 Russians have been taken prisoners in West Galicia."

Berlin, Dec. 17, By Wireless to Sayville.—The first actual successes against the Russians in the last few days appear to have been achieved by the Austrians in West Galicia. Here the Russians, according to advices received from the zone of hostilities, have been attacked simultaneously from two sides; on their right by an offensive from the eastward of Craew and on their left front by a movement directed south.

The report that the Austrians are following up the retreating Russian army farther south shows in the opinion of military observers, that the Russians are being forced northwards upon their forces in Western Poland. Whether this retirement will extend to the Russians massed to the north of Piotrkow will depend on the events of the next few days.

## SHIPS SUNK BY MINES IN NORTH SEA

### Four Steamers, One Believed to Be a Passenger Vessel, Are Reported Wrecked

### 7 LIVES ON ONE BOAT ARE LOST

Casualties on the Other Vessels Have Not Yet Been Ascertained—Probably Victims of Mines Left in Wake of German Fleet

South Shields, Eng., Dec. 17, via London 2:45 P. M.—Three steamers, one believed to be a passenger ship, were sunk by mines in the North sea off Flamborough head last night.

Only one of these three vessels has so far been identified. This is the steamer Elterwater. Twelve of her crew were saved but seven lost their lives. The casualties on the other ships have not yet been determined, but it is reported that the crew and passengers of the passenger vessel were seen taking to their boats.

The Admiralty has announced that all traffic between Flamborough Head and New Castle has been stopped indefinitely.

Flamborough Head is about twenty miles down the coast from Scarborough, one of the points bombarded yesterday by the German cruisers. These hostile ships were reported to have left mines in their wake as they steamed away from the British coast.

The area from Flamborough Head

## LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

One of the greatest victories of the war is claimed to-day by Germany. The German official statement contains these words:

"The Russian offensive against Silesia and Posen has completely broken down. In the whole of Poland the enemy was forced to retreat after fierce and stubborn frontal battles and is being pursued everywhere."

A semi-official statement from Berlin speaks confidently of the situation in the east and says that the Austrians appear to have achieved their first actual successes against the Russians in the last few days in Western Galicia. Petrograd admits that the German banking movements threaten the Russian lines of communication and that it has been necessary for the Russians to draw back their lines in certain sections, but it gives no intimation of such reverses as are reported from Berlin.

The great battle in the west, which is being carried on most fiercely in Belgium and Northwestern France, is the subject of conflicting claims. The German war office announces that the allies have made new attacks but that they have been beaten back with heavy losses. The French statement says that several German trenches in Belgium have been captured by infantry assaults and that at other points to the south and east the artillery of the allies has done effective work.

Four steamers were sunk by mines

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## TROOPER SHOT; 2 ARRESTS

State Police Hop to Capture Five More of Party Alleged to Have Beaten Two Members of Constabulary

Captain George F. Lumb, deputy superintendent of State police, received a report this morning of the alleged attack made by seven Italians upon two State policemen in Wyoming, Luzerne county, yesterday. The two troopers, Amman and Marshall, called at the house of an Italian to search for stolen goods alleged to be secreted in the house. The Italian, it is claimed, met them with smiles and told them to proceed with the search, and they went through the lower part of the house, finding nothing. They then went to the upper part of the house and while both were stooping over in the small room, lifting a mattress from a bed to look under it, they were suddenly attacked from behind by seven men.

Both Amman and Marshall are skillful with their fists, and they succeeded in beating their assailants for a time, but finally, it is alleged, the foreigners drew revolvers and began to shoot, one ball plunging a ridge across the top of Amman's head, the blood blinding him. Both men knew that it was death to remain longer, and they jumped from the window to a snow pile, escaping further injury, although both were badly bruised and cut. They succeeded in arresting two of the men, but the others got away with two guns they had taken from the troopers. The members of B troop have been notified, and Captain Lumb says that all of the men who participated in the assault on Amman and Marshall will be arrested before the day is over, as they are all known and it will be impossible for them to get away.

Held on a Forgery Charge  
Elmer E. Hunter, 350 Ridge street, Steelton, charged with forging the names of two women to the backs of Christmas checks and then cashing them at a Harrisburg store, was held under \$500 bail for court by Mayor Royal this afternoon. He was arrested yesterday by City Detective Ibach. The amount of the checks was \$76.69 and he had \$33 left when apprehended and his arms full of purchases.

## \$2,000,000 FIRE DESTROYS A POTTSVILLE BUSINESS BLOCK

### Blaze That Starts in Woolworth Five and Ten Cent Store Levels a Score of Buildings, Including the Pennsylvania National Bank and the Academy of Music, One of the City's Leading Playhouses--Worst Fire in the History of the Town--Masonic Lodge Made Homeless

By Associated Press.  
Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 17.—A \$2,000,000 fire wiped out one entire business block in the heart of the business district of Pottsville early this morning and at 8 o'clock it was burning fiercely after communicating to a second block, but it was believed that it had been controlled. The fire burned itself out about 9:30 a. m.

## DIVIDED ON PLAN TO CUT TAX RATE

### City Commissioners May Split When It Comes to Ballotting on Half Mill Reduction

### BOWMAN SAYS IT WILL CARRY

Asserts There Are Votes Enough to Lower the Levy—Mayor Royal Believes a Decrease Now Would Mean an Increase in the Rate for 1916

With the total of the 1915 budget requests already reduced to a trifle less than \$560,000, the City Commissioners went into extraordinary session beginning at 3 o'clock this afternoon determined to finish their pruned work and to have the measure prepared for printing, so that it may be in shape for final passage at the regular meeting next Tuesday.

There is now some doubt in the minds of city officials as to the possibility of reducing the tax rate from nine and one-half to nine mills, although Commissioner H. F. Bowman said this morning he now is satisfied there will be sufficient votes to pass the tax levy ordinance providing for the decrease.

Mayor Royal and other city officials, however, declared that if a nine mill

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## MERCURY STILL HOVERING AROUND 10-DEGREE MARK

### Cold Wave to Last For Two Days, Say Weather Bureau Officials—Sunday's Snow Remains Frozen to the Pavements

There was no indication to-day of any let up in the cold wave, the Weather Bureau officials here continuing to forecast extremely low temperatures, fixing to-night's probable minimum at 12 degrees, one degree higher than that of last night.

The Susquehanna river under the influence of the protracted cold spell had become generally icebound and it will remain so. Slight decreases in the river stage are forecast for the next twenty-four hours. The ice on the river at this point is five inches thick where tests were made by Weather Bureau officials. It will likely average close to that point in thickness.

The weather continues far below the normal temperature for this time of the year and since the first big fall in temperature the mercury has not been within twelve degrees of the freezing point, the maximum since the cold wave set in occurring yesterday afternoon when the twenty-degree mark was reached.

Under the influence of this kind of weather there is no hope that ice-coated pavements will be cleared by sun. The life of the present cold wave is believed to be two days yet. A storm of unusual strength has appeared off the coast of California causing heavy rains. That may develop east following the present cold wave.

Generally fair weather will prevail to-night and Friday east of the Mississippi except in the lower Mississippi valley where rain or snow will fall and in Florida where rains are predicted.

## Auto Bandit Robs One Institution of \$8,000 and Escapes With the Police in Pursuit

### At Latter Place the Robber Shoots the Cashier and Escapes With Another Bundle of Money in Automobile But Afterward Is Arrested

By Associated Press.  
Cincinnati, Dec. 17.—Late this afternoon the bandit was captured. He had rented a room yesterday in a West Ninth street apartment house and the owner of the apartment, having read a description of the police to a similarity, three policemen called at his room and upon opening the door were received with a shower of shots. Policeman Knaul fell wounded and the bandit, jumping past the other two officers, fled to the street, re-entered his automobile, which was standing in the front of the house, and fled.

## FLAMES AGAIN ATTACK THE MASONIC TEMPLE, CAUSING A LOSS OF \$15,000

### HER WILL ON SCRAP PAPER

Miss Jane L. Robinson Left More Than \$1,000 to Her Cousin, Miss Catherine F. Bigler

Notations made on two pieces of paper, neither of which is larger than a postal card, make up the will of Jane L. Robinson, formerly a school teacher and nurse, late of 1013 North Front street.

Miss Robinson was more than 60 years old. She gave the bulk of her estate, which consists of bank deposits and a small tract of land, to her cousin, Miss Catherine F. Bigler, with whom she lived at the Front street address.

It does not appear on the "will" just when it was written. However, three Harrisburgers, personal acquaintances of the deceased, made affidavit that the papers are in the handwriting of Miss Robinson. The one reads as follows:

"I leave \$50 deposited in the Commercial bank, Egg Harbor, to Kitty Bigler."

The other carries this provision: "I leave my bank deposits, over \$1,600, to Kitty Bigler. In bank in Brooklyn, Atlantic avenue and Clinton streets."

Miss Robinson, years ago, followed the profession of a nurse and for some time had been employed in New York City.

The two papers which go to make up the will were found among other less valuable papers and letters shortly after Miss Robinson's death on March 3, last. The will was not probated earlier because a search was being made to learn whether there was a later document.

Miss Robinson was a sister of Andrew Robinson, formerly a bank clerk in this city, who is believed to have been killed by bandits in Texas years ago.

### TO EAT MEAT ON CHRISTMAS

#### Roman Catholics Will Fast Next Week on Thursday, Not Friday

Roman Catholics will be permitted to eat meat on Friday of next week, Christmas day, according to the Rev. M. M. Hasset, of St. Patrick's cathedral. The Roman Catholic Church has a ruling that when a church festival falls on a Friday a general dispensation may be given in every diocese.

The custom will next week be followed of observing the preceding day as the fast day. Fasting always precedes the celebration of a church festival, and Thursday of next week will accordingly be fast day.

This will affect the meat and fish markets of the entire world. Fish will be on hand a day earlier than usual and meat will be furnished on Friday to Catholics as well as non-Catholics.

### 6 SONS ACT AS PALLBEARERS

#### Obeys the Deathbed Request of Mrs. Julian Dare Who is Buried To-day

In obedience to their mother's dying request, James, Richard, Jonas, Joseph, William and John, the six sons of Mrs. Julian Dare, acted as pallbearers at the funeral of their mother which was held this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Annie Morris, 1341 North street.

Further services were held at 2 o'clock in Pleasant View Church of God, the Rev. E. C. Herr officiating. Burial was made in Paxtang cemetery.

### Find Children Barefooted

City Detectives White and Murnane yesterday afternoon found a family of Roumanian gypsies living in a room at Williams and Sayford streets. There were nearly a dozen little boys and girls insufficiently clad and having no shoes and stockings. The women of the party were trying to make ends meet by telling fortunes. Chief of Police Hutcheson has ordered them to leave the city.

### Fire Sweeps Parts of Three Floors of Handsome Building Damaged Less Than a Month Ago---Costly Uniforms Burn in Steel Lockers---Shivering Firemen Eat Ice Cream Left From Banquet

Flames, for the second time in less than a month, this morning attacked the Masonic Temple, at Third and State streets, and for a while threatened the handsome 7½-story stone building with destruction. Three of the upper floors were damaged by fire, and water caused losses in other parts of the building. The damage was greater than that caused by the fire on November 21, and is estimated at \$15,000. The flames started in the kitchen on the seventh floor, just off the hall where last evening Perseverance Lodge No. 21, of Masons, held a banquet, and were discovered shortly before 6 o'clock.

The kitchen, with the pantry and serving room in the seventh floor, are completely gutted. The fire ate its way to the sixth floor, did thousands of dollars' worth of damage to the paraphernalia there of Pilgrim Commandery, Knights Templar, and went on to the fifth floor, where part of the ceiling and one piece of furniture—a handsome high-backed chair, used in the lodge ceremonies—were burned. Much damage was done by water in some of the lower floors of the building.

The loss on the building is estimated to-day at \$5,000 and it may be greater if the plaster throughout should be found to have been damaged by the water. A detailed inventory of the contents will have to be taken to determine the loss to furnishings and paraphernalia, as much property destroyed by fire or damaged by smoke and water belonged to individuals. This may reach \$10,000. The various Masonic organizations carry insurance on the contents of their rooms and the loss on the building is covered by insurance.

#### Standpipe Helps Save Building

Two lines of hose from the standpipe in the building, one line from a steam fire engine, one chemical stream and many "pony" extinguishers, carried by the central district fire companies, were used in fighting the fire. The firemen were in service for more than two hours.

#### Difficulty Reaching Base

The chemical line was run into the building on the State street side, the hose being wound round and round the elevator shaft and at first it proved too short to reach the blaze. A section from a second chemical wagon was then coupled with it. The water pressure in the building's standpipe was good, considering how high up in the building the blaze was.

There was no fire left in the kitchen range, according to Machin. Members of the Masonic organizations are at a loss to account for the origin of the blaze. The exact position of the place where the fire started cannot be determined.

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## LOOTS TWO BANKS AND IS CAUGHT

### Auto Bandit Robs One Institution of \$8,000 and Escapes With the Police in Pursuit

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 17.—An automobile bandit believed to be operating alone, terrorized the west and business sections of Cincinnati to-day, robbed two banks within a radius of ten blocks of each other, shot and seriously wounded the cashier of one bank, shot at the cashier of the other and apparently eluded the police by escaping in an automobile.

It is known that he obtained \$8,000 in the first bank, the West End branch of the Provident Savings Bank and Trust Company at Eighth and Fremont avenues, and the officials of the Liberty Banking and Savings Company at Liberty and Fremont avenues, the second bank robbed, believe that the amount obtained from them will run into thousands when a check up is made.

No fewer than twelve persons were in the banks at the time the robberies were committed, but the premeditated use of the bandit's revolver held them in check although a minute description of the man and his automobile was obtained.

At 10:30 o'clock the bandit drove up before the West End branch of the Provident in a small automobile. He scaled an eight-foot screen in the bank, fired at Cashier Edward Hughes, grabbed \$8,000, backed to the door and disappeared in his machine followed by a fusillade of shots from Hughes's revolver. The police led section picked up his track which led through various streets in the West End section but had almost given up hope of locating him that way, when a bandit was reported to have robbed the Liberty bank.

The same tactics which had proved successful at the Provident bank were employed by the bandit at the Liberty bank, the only difference being that in the latter case he shot Cashier George Winters, probably seriously wounding him. The police once more picked up

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## WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, Dec. 17.—The closing was heavy. Aside from a further downward drift the market developed no new features. Steel was staidest of the prominent shares. A duller and more contracted movement, in which the average price level went lower, marked the course of to-day's operations on the Stock Exchange.