

CHRISTMAS TO REACH SOLDIERS

Santa Claus With Presents For All to Visit Men in the Trenches.

(By William G. Shepherd.)
London, Dec. 23.—There are 20,000,000 broken homes in Europe from which the men have departed and are now dead, held as prisoners or are fighting at the front. This means just that many sorrowing women and 100,000,000 children who will spend Christmas day without their daddies.

While the clocks tick off the first minute of Christmas, the nations of Europe will spend \$50,000 in the killing of men, but nevertheless the spirit of Christmas will stride to the most remote corners of the grimiest, battlefields and fill the trenches and forts, just as it will lay hands on the men-of-war and the ministries and the great capitals of the warring nations.

Soldiers Remembered.
I have visited all of the countries involved in the war except Russia since Christmas is approaching, throwing its light as brightly as ever over early December.

I saw devout Austrians in Galicia wearing sprigs of Christmas trees and mistletoe in their hats.

I saw the mail for German soldiers, composed almost entirely of Christmas cards and packages.

As long as a fortnight ago in France and Flanders, military transport autos groaned past bearing burdens of gifts which had been accumulating for 10 days for the British, French and Belgian troops.

This outburst of giving is so overwhelming that even the French-Mohammedan and English-Hindu soldiers will receive tons of presents.

Russians Without Fold.
The Russians alone, so far, have not shared in the general flood of presents, which will sweep the trenches and battlefields of Europe on Friday. Their Christmas does not come until January.

It is not a "spug" Christmas in Europe this year. Gifts of every description are being sent to the men in the trenches. London papers have published special instructions stating how packages should be addressed and mailed to reach the soldiers. Warm clothing, cigars, tobacco, cigar-

ets and food of every description, from puddings and dainties to the more substantial varieties, comprise the bulk of the gifts from every country.

Realization that its men are suffering, fighting and dying has resulted in a different, a stronger Christmas spirit than Europe has ever known.

Prisoners Plan Concert.
There will be merriment of Englishmen even in Berlin. For a fortnight the British prisoners of war there have been rehearsing for a Christmas concert. In England German prisoners will give concerts in the various concentration camps.

There is to be a Christmas, too, for the Belgian refugees in England. Scattered as they are now throughout the country, they will consume tons of goodies furnished by the English people on Christmas day.

In Vienna, United States Ambassador Penfield will distribute a shipment of toys sent from America and 13 tons of hospital cotton which left America on the steamship, Sommersfeld. This will be distributed to the Austro-Hungarian Red Cross society.

Santa to Trenches.
Santa Claus will go to the trenches, but not between them. He wouldn't be safe in that territory, where the bullets from each side cross and criss-cross. In some places the trenches in northern France are less than 100 feet apart. It was concerning these spots that the German general, Von Emmich, said:

"I don't believe in the Germans being so friendly with the enemy. They throw messages back and forth to each other in tin cans and use dogs as couriers. They quit shooting during mealtime and even learn each other's names. Such relations are not good for soldiers."

But it is safe to say that many a cheerful Christmas message will pass via the tin can route in Flanders and France. This will not be the case in the Austrian, Serbian or Russian trenches, because there is something of a holy war in their fighting.

Jason Spreads Cheer.
The "Christmas ship" Jason, from the United States brought joy and comfort to thousands of children of all the belligerent nations. The gifts from the Jason reached Berlin today and the good ship will complete its voyage of good will when it touches Saloniki, where its last gifts will be unloaded.

Numerous war relief Christmas funds have been raised, and the various British funds already amount to \$25,000,000. But the work still goes on. Actors and actresses are giving free performances for the wounded in the hospitals and benefit performances for the Christmas funds.

HONOR FOR GERARD.
New York, Dec. 23.—The assistance given in various ways by Ambassador James W. Gerard at Berlin on the commission for relief of Belgium in the distribution of food has led that body to elect him an honorary chairman of the commission.

KAISERIN AT RAILWAY STATION BIDS SOLDIERS GOOD-BYE



This photo, taken at a railroad station in Berlin, shows the Kaiserin bidding the German soldiers good-bye as they leave for the front.

RUSE SAVES SMALL COMPANY OF MEN

Had Withstood German Attacks Valiantly Till Ammunition Ran Out.

Havre, Dec. 23.—How a single company of French infantry, told off to cover a retreat, withstood a large force of Germans for several hours during a battle at night and then escaped through a ruse is related by a wounded officer.

The entire division had been ordered to withdraw during a sharp counter attack at Charleroi. One company was selected to check the German advance. This lot fell to the company of which the officer, now in a local hospital, had command.

It was at 8 o'clock in the evening when the company was ordered out. The men ran through a heavy rifle and machine gun fire to a farmhouse, in which they barricaded themselves, stuffing the walls. Every time the enemy tried to approach, they were stopped by volley firing. This lasted nearly three hours.

Twenty times the enemy's bugles announced a bayonet charge, and twenty times the rush was repulsed, but the defenders began to run short of ammunition.

The vigor of the German attacks was now broken. This the French commander quickly took advantage of. He ordered a bugler to sound the "vive charge." The Germans stopped firing and braced themselves to meet it. During the pause, so as not to break the still of the night with suspicious sounds, the French stole out of the house, man by man, and ran for the rear. When the Germans, tiring of the strain of awaiting the attack, took the house by a rush, they found in it nothing but empty shells.

CABINET MEMBERS DO NOT SPARE FAMILIES
Havre, Dec. 23.—The members of the Belgian cabinet have not spared their own families in the present crisis. The Baron de Broqueville, president of the cabinet and minister of war, has his four sons in the ranks.

Both M. Berryer, minister of the interior, and M. Pouillet, minister of agriculture and arts, have in the artillery their eldest sons, who took part in the sieges of Liege and Antwerp.

The two sons of the minister of the colonies, M. Rankin, won promotion.

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RUSSIANS MORE CIVIL TO AMERICANS THAN THE ENGLISH, SAYS DAKOTAN

New Salem, N. D., Dec. 23.—Ernest Hintz of this place has just arrived from Odessa, Russia, in which city he was located at the time of the recent Turkish bombardment.

Hintz declares the Russians are more courteous towards Americans than are the English, reaching this conclusion on events that occurred during his trip from Russia to the United States. He only real difficulty with officials was in England, where he was detained several hours pending investigation of his credentials.

On the morning following the Odessa bombardment, Hintz picked up several fragments of shrapnel at the place of his employment.

JAPANESE WERE ONCE ARMENIANS

That is Declaration of Prominent Student—Claim Heavenly Creation

Tokio, Dec. 23.—The Japanese people are now being told from an account by Takahiro Kimmura, who has been making a study of ancient records of Japan. The Japanese, he says, are to be a race descending from heaven. They call their country the Land of Gods, he continues, and this tradition reveals the true origin of the Japanese people. The investigator writes as follows:

"Heaven is 'Ame' in Japanese, so the Kingdom of Ame must have been Armenia in Asia, whence the people spread in all directions. But the center of the race history moved on to Babylon, Greece and Egypt, and still farther to Morocco and Senegal in the extreme west of Africa."

"Japan's first emperor, Jimmu, who must have lived in Gambia, otherwise called Jimma, in Senegal, recrossed the Atlantic and returned to Greece. This is the eastern expedition of Jimmu in Japanese chronicles and the return of Hercules in Greek records. The story of his return was the origin of the Japanese race."

The author does not accept therefor the Japanese chronology of the early age. He affirms that Jimmu Tenno's deeds were enacted in a region entirely different from the present Japan.

The eight successive emperors after Jimmu ruled the same country (Greece), according to the Japanese records, but the imperial capital was removed to Zuzin in the north of Arabia toward the end of the Emperor Sujin's reign. In this period, several princes and other relatives of the imperial family were sent to various places to rule, and the names of those places as mentioned in Japanese history can be traced to Arabia and the adjacent countries. In the time of the Emperor Suinin, Egypt, he thinks, became the seat of government.

LEASING PLAN IS NOT WANTED

Washington, Dec. 23.—Governor Ammons of Colorado appeared before the senate public lands committee Tuesday afternoon in opposition to the leasing water power site leasing bills, the public hearings of which will be concluded tomorrow.

Ammons attacked the principle of lease holding upon which the water power as well as the coal and other non-precious mineral lands are to be opened to development under the administrative program. He declared this policy would deprive the public lands states of the west of the taxes with which to build themselves up. He insisted that there was no danger of exhaustion of the coal in the states regulated by the industries. Colorado alone, he said, had sufficient to supply the world with coal for 300 years at the present rate of consumption.

WILL NOT FIGHT OVER PATRONAGE

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Wilson did the expected Tuesday. He stepped the senate storm over federal patronage by making the soothing announcement that nobody not even the whole senate of the United States of America, could set up a row with him over such an insignificant matter as patronage. The senate could do as it pleased, he said, about nominations; he would not cross swords with it over such trivial business.

ANOTHER CONFERENCE.
Washington, Dec. 23.—The British ambassador yesterday had another of his frequent conferences with Solicitor Johnson at the state department in pursuance of the effort, which is being made to secure an application of existing conditions regarding embargoes and re-exportation from America of products from Great Britain's dominions.

FRENCH TERR'OR OF SKY DOWNED

Its Work Feared by Germans, Who Finally Succeeded in Stopping It.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—A small French aeroplane—the "Bruernschreck," which translated means "the peasant's terror," is no more and great is the rejoicing thereat among one wing of the German army which it had disturbed much.

For a long period, every evening about 5 o'clock, the machine used to appear over the trenches south of Rheims, drop just one bomb, which never failed to scatter death and destruction, and then disappear. German aviators ascended repeatedly and made futile attempts to bring down the dangerous visitor. It was evident that the machine carried a murderous machine gun and that its occupants were no mean marksmen.

Every aviator who pursued the "Bauernschreck" sought eagerly the honor of bringing it down, and as a result of bravery shown in pursuit one non-commissioned officer won an iron cross but lost his life. After being shot through the hip by a gun in the French machine, he continued to pilot a German aeroplane for nine miles.

Finally a reserve artillery captain evolved a new base for a howitzer, so constructed as to permit great elevation, and rapid change of objective and the second shot from it hit the "Bauernschreck." Both occupants were charred and mutilated beyond recognition. It could only be told that one was an officer and the other a civilian.

POLICE UNEARTH DYNAMITE PLOT

New Orleans, La., Dec. 23.—The New Orleans police today said they had frustrated a plot to blow up the French steamship, Rochembeau, by the arrest of five Germans. One German, the police said, admitted they constructed a bomb, with a clock arrangement set for six and a half days from today, which they intended to ship by parcel post, consigned to the Rochembeau, which is expected to sail from New York Saturday.

FIVE ARE DEAD IN RACE RIOTS

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 23.—Fighting between whites and negroes of Oconee county, near Fair Plains, S. C., which resulted in the killing of four negroes and the wounding of four whites Sunday, was renewed today, reports stated.

SAYS THAW SHOULD FOLLOW HER ADVICE

New York, Dec. 23.—"Harry can get out of Matteawan if he will accept my advice," said Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw last night. She had just learned that the United States supreme court had ordered her returned to New York, where he will be put back in the insane asylum or tried for conspiracy in escaping from the institution.

ANOTHER UNIT FOR RED CROSS WORK

Kansas City, Dec. 23.—Sufficient money to equip a third Red Cross unit for service in the European war was raised with a monster Red Cross jubilee performance in convention hall here last night. Twenty-five Kansas City theatrical people, including noted opera stars, cancelled several weeks' booking to take part in the "come-coming" production.

HUNDRED TONS OF OPIUM IS SEIZED

New York, Dec. 23.—Customs officers today seized aboard the White Star line steamer Adriatic 100 tons of opium said to have come from London, and arrested James Murphy, store keeper on the ship on a charge of attempting to smuggle the forbidden drug into this country.

ACUTE DISTRESS AMONG CHILDREN

Five Hundred Between the Ages of 4 and 10 Are Without Mothers.

Havre, Dec. 23.—Acute distress is reported at Etretat in the colony of motherless children, whose fathers have been called to the army. This colony, whose numbers are still growing, now contains 500 children of ages ranging from four to ten years. The sudden change from a pleasant autumn to the first of the winter's storms, with cold, sharp weather, has caused much suffering among the little ones, owing to lack of sufficient wearing apparel and bed clothes.

The town of Etretat, about twelve miles from Havre, lies on the exposed coast and is swept by winds and sea fogs during the winter. Between the Belgian refugees and the dependent families of soldiers, public charity in France is already heavily taxed, but nevertheless the colony's appeal for help has met with some success in numerous ways.

CONFUSING CLAIMS STILL MARK WAR SITUATION

(Continued from Page 1.)
blow against the Servians, but gives no intimation of the form it will take.

German navy aviator, Lieut. von Prondy, reported he had thrown three bombs and reconnoitered the position of the British fleet. Russian court martials in Poland have hanged numerous Jews.

Berlin Press Comment.
The newspapers here today publish an unofficial statement from headquarters in answer to the official statement of the British publicist.

The French report asserted that several trenches had been taken at Auchy, Labasse, St. Laurent and Blandin.

French Reports Denied.
A French report said the French position near Albert had reached the entanglements of the second line of German trenches. The headquarters statement admits that eight Frenchmen came this far, but that they were all captured. The French claim that German attacks near St. Hubert all failed, and is answered with the statement that the Germans took 800 prisoners in these attacks, exterminating utterly the ninth battalion of French Chasseurs.

Germans Move South.
In the east, most of the Germans north of the Vistula had retired across the East Prussian frontier before the onrush of Russian forces south of the Vistula, between Bzura and Pilica, the Germans continue to advance, and it was announced tonight that in a fierce battle they had succeeded in crossing the branches of the Bzura and Rawa rivers in many places. This should bring the main armies very close together, and in a few days will tell whether the German advance can be checked or whether the Germans are again to threaten Warsaw.

The Germans, extremely strong along the whole eastern frontier, are already reported to be moving troops back to the west to meet the allied offensive, but it is not considered likely that this movement will reach large proportions until a decisive result is attained against the Russians.

Turks Under Fire.
The Turks are being attacked on two sides. The Russians claim to have inflicted a severe defeat on them in the district of Vat. While the allied fleet was bombarding Kilid Bahir, the Dardanelles, a French destroyer shelled their troops on the mainland, opposite the island of Tenedos.

Four thousand South American rebels are reported to have been sent home on parole.

Bombs Near Church

Rome, Dec. 23.—Small bomb exploded in the courtyard of Basilica San Clemente, the titular church of Cardinal O'Connell of Boston. Another bomb failed to explode and was found. The windows of the church were broken, this being the only damage done.

Hungarians to Have Gifts

Berlin, Dec. 23.—(By wireless to London.)—The portion of the shipment of Christmas gifts from the children of the United States to be sent to Hungarian children, arrived at Budapest yesterday. The gifts were placed on fifty-two wagons and transported to a central station for assortment and distribution. This work will be performed by a committee of which the Hungarian premier, Count Stophany, is chairman. It is hoped that the presents will be placed in the hands of the children Christmas eve.

Russian Claims

Petrograd, Dec. 23.—It is officially stated that the Russians repulsed the enemy's attacks on the left bank of the Vistula and lower course of the Pilica river, inflicting heavy losses. It adds:

"We evacuated only some small positions and fell back toward the east in order to occupy more advantageous positions. Our counter-attack resulted in throwing into the river the German troops who crossed the Bzura. The troops suffered heavy losses."

Victoria Crosses

London, Dec. 23.—The Victoria Cross has been conferred upon Lieutenant Commander Norman E. Holbrook, commander of the submarine Erit for torpedoing the Turkish battleship Mesudieh in the Dardanelles on Dec. 13.

Victoria crosses have been awarded also to Second Lieutenant James Leach and Sergeant John Hogan of the Second battalion, of the Manchester regiment, for "conspicuous bravery" near Constantinople on the 29th of October, when, after their trench had

COMMAND SECOND AND THIRD ENGLISH CRUISER SQUADRONS



Admiral Sir Charles Doveton Sturdee (top) and Admiral Sir Charles Edward Madden.



New photographs of two British admirals commanding squadrons of King George's mighty fleet. Admiral Sturdee, in charge of the second cruiser squadron, was born in 1859. Admiral Madden, in command of the third cruiser squadron, was born in 1862.

been taken by the Germans, and after two attempts to recapture it had failed, they voluntarily decided the afternoon of the same day to recover the trench themselves, and working from traverse to traverse at close quarters with great bravery, gradually succeeded in gaining possession of the trench. They killed eight of the enemy, wounded two and made 16 prisoners.

Fear of England.
Minneapolis, Dec. 23.—J. W. T. Mason, discussing the latest war developments, says:

The most significant indication of the attitude of Germany's war leaders that has come from the battlefield is contained in Karl von Wiegand's interview with Admiral von Tirpitz, head of the German navy. As a rank declaration of the beliefs that war has forced upon the Kaiser's chief advisers, von Tirpitz's statement is more important even than the recent interview with the German crown prince.

Warning to Great Britain.
In every essential, von Tirpitz's declaration is a warning, born almost of desperation, to Great Britain. The belief has been created, apparently, among the German leaders that neither France nor Russia is the enemy to be feared, but that Great Britain is the backbone of the anti-German coalition. Von Tirpitz voices a fear that Great Britain may insist upon the war being fought to a finish. His words suggest that such an outcome would be more beneficial to the British than to any other of the warring nationalities. To compel Great Britain to abandon its desire for a finish fight is apparently the chief object of Germany's strategy. Von Tirpitz speaks of Germany's ability to keep the war going as long as Germany desires, but his words seem shaded by a spirit of desperation.

Must Terrorize Great Britain.
He suggests sternly that if Great Britain persists in fighting for an overwhelming decision, Germany will have to protect herself regardless of means, but simply in accordance with the first law of nature. The English must be terrorized into reasonableness, is von Tirpitz's real message to the world. He defines how it can be done.

He wants to know what America would say if Germany ordered its submarines to torpedo Britain's merchant marine. It has been a recognized rule of modern warfare that unarmed ships of the enemy cannot be sunk unless all souls aboard are rescued. Von Tirpitz's proposition, however, is to make submarine raids against these trading vessels and torpedo them as warships are torpedoed, sending all souls to the bottom.

Only a condition of desperation can explain this proposal being made by the head of the German navy. It is a final hope which von Tirpitz is preparing to attempt, if other means fail of bringing home to Great Britain the disastrous consequences of an indeterminate war.

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