

ALLIED FLEET SHELLS FOES ON SEACOAST AT WESTENDE

Warships, Co-operating With Land Forces in New Drive Toward Ostend, Open Furious Fire Upon German Trenches.

Belgians Gain Ground Along Yser, Beating Invaders Back From Entrenched Points on Left Bank. French Win Further Advantage in Fighting South of Ypres.

Violent bombardment of Westende by British warships seeking to drive back its German occupants was reported today in the official communique of the French War Office.

In the region of Arras, along the Aisne and in the Champagne district artillery duels were continuously in progress, the French obtaining an advantage at several points.

In the Woëvre region the French are declared to have repulsed several attacks.

Berlin officially reports that the Allies' advance east from Nieuport was repulsed and 450 French were taken prisoners.

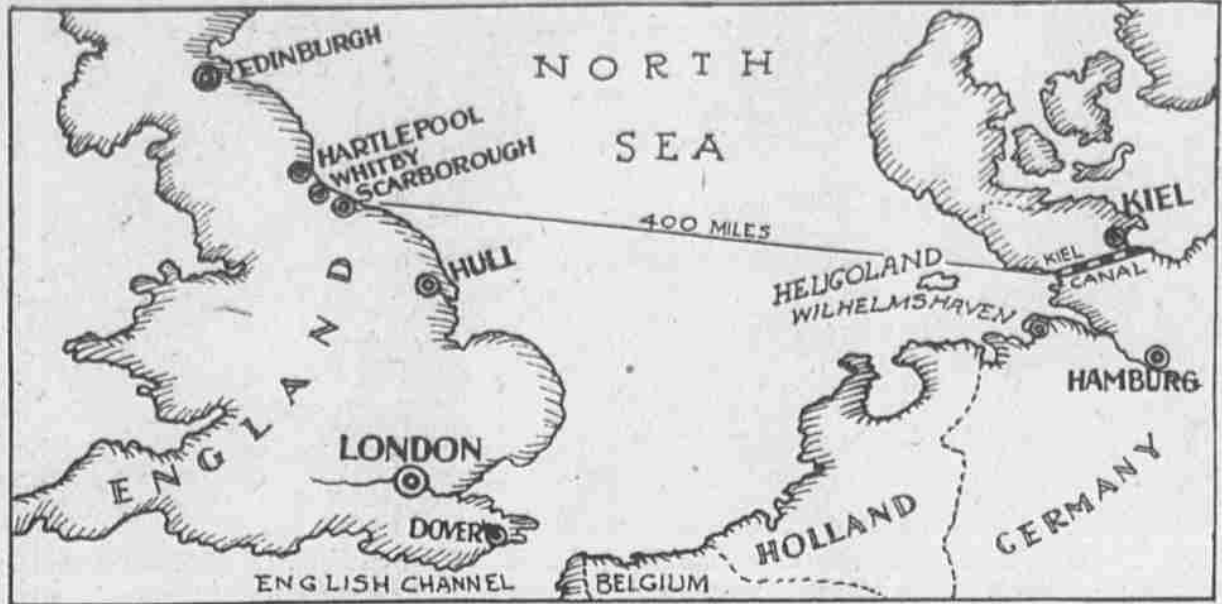
Fierce fighting has developed at Lowitz, where the Germans, reinforced, have renewed determinedly their forward movement on Warsaw.

Hot assaults are being made on the Russian centre, but according to Petrograd official reports without the gain of any advantage.

Berlin has admitted retreat of the force moving on Warsaw from the Carpathians.

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BRITISH WARSHIPS STRIKE GERMAN RAIDERS TO AVENGE DARING DASH ON EAST COAST



WHERE GREAT SEA BATTLE WAS STAGED TODAY OFF ENGLISH COAST. Points under attack by German warships today are about 400 miles in a straight line from Kiel.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH. In Belgium, Westende (northeast of Lombardes) has been violently bombarded by the British fleet.

Our troops who had already gained ground in the direction of Klein Zillebake, have also progressed, but not appreciably, in the region of St. Eloi.

In the Miava region our action continues, and the success gained by our troops has been maintained.

RUSSIAN. In the Miava region our action continues, and the success gained by our troops has been maintained.

Since the morning of December 14 there has been fierce fighting between the Austrians, and the left bank of the Danube and both sides have been alternately on the offensive and defensive.

The fighting in the other regions along the whole stretch of the front has been less intense.

AUSTRIAN. In western Galicia our troops, after advancing to the vicinity of Janko and Rajbrod, continued to press on.

SERVIAN. All Austrian soldiers have been driven from Serbia.

YOUTHS FIGHT WITH KNIVES AND PISTOL AT STATION

Passengers Afraid to Interfere and One Combatant Is Shot.

A young man in the Bryn Mawr Hospital with two bullets in his body and another in under arrest as the result of a knife and revolver fight at the Ardmore station of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

PHYSICIANS FOUND THAT SUIZIZO WAS SHOT IN THE ARM AND IN THE BACK, BUT AS THE REVOLVER WITH WHICH THE SHOOTING WAS DONE WAS ONLY 22 CALIBRE HIS CONDITION IS NOT SERIOUS.

ELMER JOHNS, a foreman for the Bell Telephone Company, probably saved Suiizolo from further injury when he snatched the revolver away from Hainio.

A third shot fired by the latter grazed Jones' shoulder, just hitting the skin. The fight occurred at 10:15 o'clock this morning.

After talking for 15 minutes both boys drew knives and rushed at each other. They were so well matched, however, that neither was able to do any damage.

JUDGE KIRBY CRITICALLY ILL

The condition of Judge John L. Kirby, of the Court of Common Pleas, who is ill at his home, 1115 Spruce street, was reported today as being critical.

GEN. SCOTT GOING TO MEXICO BORDER AS COMMANDER

Chief of Staff, Personal Friend of Villa, Will Use His Influence to Stop Fusillade at Naco.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Major General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the Army, will leave today for Naco, Ariz., to take personal charge of the situation there.

In connection with this sudden determination of Secretary Garrison, reports reached the War Department that infantry and artillery already were on the way in readiness for any orders that might be given to end the Mexican fusillade across the border.

In a statement, Secretary Garrison declared the dispatch of General Scott was due to the wide acquaintance of the Chief of Staff with conditions along the frontier.

Secretary Garrison issued this statement in connection with ordering General Scott to the border.

By reason of the personal acquaintances acquired with the different factions while he was stationed on the border, General Scott has been sent to Naco. This is done in the hope that he may be able, by reason of the knowledge and acquaintances acquired, to induce the warring factions to cease hostilities.

General Scott is a close personal friend of General Villa, as well as many other Mexican leaders, and he will go to Naco, it is understood, as a sort of emissary in a final attempt to prevent conditions which, if they continue, now seem certain to result in an armed clash.

TROOPS MOBILIZE QUICKLY IN OBEDIENCE TO ORDER

TEXAS CITY, Tex., Dec. 15.—Scarcely 12 hours after receiving Secretary Garrison's orders to move to Naco, Arizona, to reinforce the artillery and cavalry detachment already there, the 6th Brigade was reported to have moved to Naco.

PINCHOT CLASHES WITH SMOOT

Charges Interests With Opposing Development of Water Power.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Gifford Pinchot, author of the Roosevelt conservation policy, today clashed with Senator Smoot, of Utah, exponent of State rights and private development of the national resources of the country.

Pinchot charged the water power interests with opposing the development of power except where they were assured a profit.

SMOOT declared his opposition to Federal development was based upon the belief that the States had full title to the water and that they alone should control it.

MOTORTRUCK HITS WAGON

Farmer Injured in Collision Near Broad and Cumberland Streets.

J. H. Vannant, a farmer of Fort Washington, suffered a fractured shoulder and internal injuries today when his hay wagon was struck by an Acme Truck Company motortruck near Broad and Cumberland streets.

TODAY'S HOURLY TEMPERATURE RECORD

Table showing hourly temperature records from midnight to 7 a.m. with values ranging from 24 to 30 degrees.

ZERO WEATHER IN CITY, WITH NO RELIEF IN SIGHT

Skating at Wyncote, and Park Lakes Are Frozen.

Zero weather in Frankford, with figures far below the official low mark of 13 degrees at many other points, chilled the marrow of early risers today.

No relief today can be found by the official weather forecaster in his study of the charts. The forecast for today is continued cold and fair weather.

Wyncote is the first point near this city to report ice sufficiently thick for skating.

There would be no skating tomorrow, unless there is a sudden thaw. Hundreds of calls for information as to the strength of the ice on the park lakes are being received at the park guard houses.

HERRICK SEES WILSON

Former Envoy Suggests Unification of Work for War Sufferers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Myron T. Herrick, former Ambassador to France, was in conference half an hour with President Wilson today on the unification of relief work for war sufferers now being done by American organizations.

"I think that this concentration of all relief work is bound to come about in the near future," said Herrick today, "and that it is desirable and all the various organizations doing relief work are in favor of it."

CHASE OF DRESDEN IS ON

German Cruiser Leaves Port in Magellan Strait.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 15.—An official communication received here from Punta Arenas announces that the German cruiser Dresden left there Sunday.

MEXICAN VICE CONSUL NAMED

Alexander Lastra Has Been Appointed to Serve Here.

Alexander Lastra has been appointed vice consul of Mexico to Philadelphia. He has been in the consular service two years, formerly being a clerk in the Mexican consulate in New York.

LINER DOMINION A DAY LATE

The American liner Dominion, from Liverpool, was reported in the cape at 4 o'clock this morning and will dock at the Washington avenue wharf at 9 o'clock this evening, one day late.

Alabama Declares War on Serbia

REHEARING OR OUST COMMISSION, IS CRY OF THE COMMUTERS

Attorney in Harrisburg Planning to Seek Removal of Board if Request Is Refused.

Steps to bring about the removal of the members of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission unless they will grant an entire new hearing of the passenger rate increase case and offer satisfactory explanation for their course in advising the railroads in advance what their decision was to be are being planned by Edwin M. Abbott, attorney for the commuters, in Harrisburg today.

The admission by Commissioner Emory R. Johnson yesterday that the railroads were informed what the formal decision of the commission would be a day before it was made public has given rise to a new storm of protest among the commuters.

Before leaving for Harrisburg this morning Mr. Abbott declared that he intended making a personal appeal to the Commission to grant a new hearing and to make full explanation of the advice given to the railroads, and not the commuters, as to what the rate decision would be.

HOW COMMISSIONERS ARE REMOVED.

The removal of the Commission rests with the Governor and the Senate. Article 4, section 15 of the act creating the Commission reads:

The Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, may remove any Commissioner, or any of the counsel to the Commission, for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office, giving him a copy of the charges against him, and allowing him an opportunity to be publicly heard, in person, or by counsel, in his own defense, upon not less than 10 days' notice.

Should Mr. Abbott determine to press for the removal of the commissioners it is probable that the Governor will file as counsel for the Philadelphia and Reading Commuters' Association or for the Oak Lane Improvement Association, of which he is president, instead of for the United Business Men's Association.

Edward B. Martin, chairman of the Transportation Committee of the United Business Men's Association, declared this morning that it would not back Mr. Abbott in urging the removal of the commissioners.

"We will first urge the commission to grant a rehearing of the entire case," Mr. Martin said, "and then we will devote

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MINES EXPLODED 20 FEET FROM CUNARD LINER'S BOW

Passengers on Transylvania Tell of Narrow Escape in Channel.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Twenty mines exploded with terrific force about 20 feet from the bow of the Cunard liner Transylvania while she was steaming through the English Channel at dawn on December 6, according to passengers aboard the liner, which arrived here today.

It was 4 o'clock, and every one on board, with the exception of the officers on watch, was asleep. A gale was raging and the Transylvania was plowing through mountainous seas.

Hardly had the sound of the first explosion died away, with the Transylvania still rocking like a cork, when another explosion occurred off the starboard bow of the liner. Another jet of flame blazed from the sea and another wave of water swept over the ship.

Every passenger on the boat was thrown out of his bunk by the first explosion and thrown about his stateroom by the second. The passengers rushed on deck. They were in a panic, thinking that the ship had been torpedoed or that it had hit a mine. The officers calmed them.

The Transylvania carried 365 passengers, including Sir Charles Allen, London's greatest architect and a member of the Prisoners of War Relief Committee.

ROOSEVELTS ON THE NAVY

Colonel Won't Testify—Assistant Secretary Gives His Views.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Colonel Roosevelt declined today to testify before the House Naval Committee regarding the preparedness of the United States military and naval forces. He sent Representative Hobson this telegram:

THANKS FOR YOUR TELEGRAM. I DO NOT SEE THAT I CAN ADD OTHER THAN WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID IN WRITING, AND I DO NOT BELIEVE I WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE BY APPEARING. IT DOES NOT SEEM TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE WELL TO TAKE ANY PUBLIC ACTION IN THE MATTER. I WOULD COME IF I COULD DO ANY GOOD, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD DO ANY GOOD.

Hobson withdrew a request that Roosevelt be summoned.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt testified today. He declared the navy's chief weakness lay in inability to get into action in a few days its full force.

State Game Board Appointments

Whitby, Scarborough and Hartlepool Shelled by Cruisers in Timed Assault by Squadron Slipping Out From Base at Kiel and Running Gauntlet of Mines and British Patrol.

Two of Kaiser's Battle Craft Reported Sunk By British Fleet Following Raid and Others Driven Off As Four Destroyers Give Battle to Foes Off Hartlepool—Woman Killed at Whitby.

HARTLEPOOL, England, Dec. 15. Forty-seven persons were killed and many wounded by the German bombardment of Hartlepool today. The cannonade lasted 40 minutes. Thirty persons were killed in Hartlepool proper and 17 in the old town section. Many were wounded in West Hartlepool. Four storage gas tanks were destroyed and the city tonight is in darkness.

LONDON, Dec. 15. All infantry and artillery units in England have been called out. The coast stations are fully manned. Several towns have been notified of the recent attacks. Inhabitants of Tynemouth were ordered to remain indoors this evening.

LONDON, Dec. 15. German cruisers which early today bombarded the towns of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby, on the east coast of England, are now engaged in a battle for their lives with British warships called by wireless to cut off the daring raiders and prevent their return to their home base.

At Hartlepool four British destroyers immediately attacked the Kaiser's cruisers, and unofficial reports declare that they have been joined by heavier craft, and a terrific battle is now being fought off that port.

The cannonade is so heavy that windows have been broken 20 miles away. Fearing that the German attack may have been the prelude to an attempt to land troops on this coast, sea planes have been sent from Hlyth to patrol the Northumberland shore line and give notice of any such daring expedition.

German cruisers swooping down upon the English coast today made the most daring raid of the war, bombarding the seaport cities of Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby.

It was the signal for decided reply by the British, and the long expected North Sea naval battle is on.

Two of the German cruisers are reported to have been sunk in the attack by British torpedo craft immediately following bombardment of the cities. The Press Bureau says, however, there is no confirmation "as yet" of the report.

One woman at Whitby was killed, and it is said that at least nine residents of Hartlepool were victims. The attacking cruisers approached to within three miles of Whitby, and the shelling there began between 9 and 10 o'clock this morning.

It appears the German raid was timed to take place at several points on the coast and that a large fleet is engaged.

The historic abbey at Whitby was partly destroyed. Three churches in Scarborough were struck and set on fire, numerous buildings were damaged, two railway station platforms destroyed, and the population thrown into a panic which resulted in a wild run for trains from the city.

Great Britain's patrol fleet has engaged the German raiders at several points, the Admiralty announces. The outcome of the engagement directed against the raiders had not been reported early this afternoon, but it was believed that the commanders were about to round up the enemy. The greatest naval fight of the war is believed in progress.

The first details of the bombardment came from Hlyth when refugees from Scarborough arrived there. They reported that the German vessels appeared off the coast soon after daylight. There were four of them. The bombardment of the town began at 1:50 p. m.

A statement from the War Office, supplementing an earlier announcement from the Admiralty this afternoon, says:

The fortress commander at West Hartlepool reports that German war vessels engaged the fortress between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning. They were driven off. A small German vessel also opened fire on Scarborough and Whitby.

The report from the War Office does not agree with stories told by the refugees from Scarborough. They declare four German cruisers participated in the bombardment of the town. From Whitby it is also stated two cruisers were engaged instead of one.

Between 40 and 50 shells fell in Scarborough, the refugees said. The enemy's warships opened fire without warning. Their first shells, falling for the range, landed in the section of town close to the shore. Three churches which were struck stood out as targets by which the German gunners evidently directed their fire and all were struck early in the bombardment.

Whitby is midway between Hartlepool and Scarborough. This section of the British coast is directly across the North Sea from Kiel, the famous German naval base.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Hull says that one of the first German shells fired against Scarborough struck St. Martin's Church, tearing a great hole in the edifice. Another church was struck and damaged. Soon after the cannonade began the streets were filled with women and children, who had fled from their homes in their night clothing. The roofs of a number of houses were carried away by projectiles.

The German raid is believed to have been started from Cuxhaven or Wilhelmshaven, the German naval bases, south of the Kiel Canal and about 210 miles from the British coast almost due east.

It was necessary for the German ships to steam across the North Sea, passing through mine fields and evading the powerful British patrol fleet stationed

THE WEATHER



Skaters and cold air fiends are the only ones finding any thing pleasant about the present brand of winter weather.

Those of this type who live in Frankford got quite enough with the mercury at zero, but the rest of the city shivered about its furnaces this morning under an official temperature of 13 degrees.

Somewhat it never gets as cold on top of the Postoffice, where the official thermometer is located, as in the streets. The weather man is not taking any chances and confides himself to predicting for today.

Washington had a little bit to say yesterday about tomorrow and the schedule is for warmer weather.

A few degrees make little difference.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair and continued cold today. Moderate northwest wind.

For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia

Table with weather observations for Philadelphia including temperature, wind, and other data.

The Tides

Table showing tide information for Philadelphia, including high and low tide times.