

Eye Witness At The Front Describes The Methods Of Attack Now Employed

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 5, 11:45 a. m.—The press bureau today issued a report from an eye-witness at the front covering military operations during the three days from November 26 to November 29 inclusive. This report is summarized as follows: General inactivity is recorded along the English front, with the Germans pressing the attack in one quarter against the Indian troops, who have been extending their trenches in an endeavor to get in close quarters with the enemy. There has been some shelling of the rear of our front line south of the Lys, but this form of annoyance diminishes daily along the whole front. Sniping, however, is carried on almost incessantly. There seems to be little doubt that the Germans are employing civilians, either willingly or unwillingly, to dig trenches and some civilians have been seen and shot while engaged in this work. German Attitude. While it is necessary to accept the evidence of all prisoners with caution, there is a change in the views expressed by some officers captured recently which appears to be genuine. They admit the failure of the German strategy and profess to take a gloomy view of the future. At the same time it must be confessed that as yet there is no sign that their view is that generally held by the enemy, nor has there been any definite indication of a lack of morale among the German troops. The highways of northern France are crowded with men responding to the various mobilization orders issued by the French government. Thousands of such troops were encountered in the course of a short automobile trip. The strange procession includes a curious mixture of types. A considerable proportion of these new drafts are composed of middle aged men of good physique and likely young men from the countryside. Change of Battlefield. The change within the last few days of what may be termed the atmosphere of the battlefield has been marked. The noise of cannonading has now decreased to such an extent that for hours at a time nothing is heard but the infrequent boom of one of the heavy guns of the allies; the occasional rattle of machine guns, and the intermittent fire of snipers on the other side.

FULLER DETAILS OF POSITIONS HELD BY ARMIES IN EAST

By Associated Press. Petrograd, via London, Dec. 5, 6:55 a. m.—The heaviest fighting in the vicinity of Lodz during the past two days has occurred in the course of maneuvering for the possession of Lask, 15 miles southwest of Lodz. On the Sacerzew line which is 15 to 20 miles long east of the Warta, the fighting appears to indicate that the Germans have been heavily reinforced and that they are filling the gap between their right wing and the isolated body which has been striving to turn the Russian left. The German defence on the northern front in East Prussia occupies a position along the river Angerapp from Gumbinen to Darkehmen and thence to the northern extremity of the Mazurian Lakes at Angerburg. Here the Russians are entrenched close to the German line. On the east front of the lakes and to the Vistula the Russians have taken a position slightly back of their line of advance of ten days ago. Both sides appear to be awaiting the outcome of the struggle at Lodz. The main German forces in this region are concentrated about Mlaw. The military critic of the Bourse Gazette reckons that the loss of the Austrians in prisoners is equal to their number of dead and wounded and places the fighting strength of Austria now at two-thirds of what it was at the beginning of the war. He cites the smaller percentage of Austrian artillery falling into Russian hands and says this is accounted for by an explanation in a recent issue of the official War Messenger to the effect that since the second Austrian retreat from Poland the Austrian artillery is always withdrawn from the field before the final issue of the battle. This, he declares, amounts to beginning a retreat before they are actually defeated. The critic also points out the large proportion of officers, including colonels and lieutenant colonels among the prisoners, as indicating the demoralization of the Austrian army and the loss of the fighting spirit. He states that the last fifty thousand Austrian prisoners included 600 commissioned officers. The writer contrasts this with the results where the Russians are engaged against the Germans. There, he declared, the officers fall fighting. Cotton Consumption of Next Year to Be Estimated. Washington, Dec. 5.—Representatives of the state treasury and commerce departments continued today the work of preparing estimates of the world's cotton consumption next year. The committee had before it for consideration cable reports furnished by American consuls and commercial attaches giving estimates on the cotton consumption from various European and South American countries. These are the first of reports to be received in response to Secretary McAdoo's suggestions and are being gone over by the committee with a view ultimately of formulating a method of compiling the estimates on the present and prospective consumption of cotton in all parts of the world.

SCHOONER FOUNDERED; TWO LIVES LOST

By Associated Press. Newport News, Va., Dec. 5.—Two men were drowned and a third had a thrilling escape early this morning when the schooner William Donnelly of Baltimore, coal laden for Hampton founded off Thimble Shoal in Chesapeake bay. The schooner was in command of Captain John R. Phillips and his nephew and one other man composed the crew. The vessel encountered severe weather and early last night she began to leak. Between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning she went down suddenly, before those aboard had time to launch a boat. Captain Phillips managed to grasp a hatch cover as the schooner went down and after about six hours of desperate fighting for his life he was washed ashore near Willoughby beach in Hampton Roads, in an exhausted and almost dying condition. He was later taken to Norfolk. The other two men went down with the schooner. The Donnelly had aboard 175 tons of anthracite coal consigned to a Hampton merchant.

Great Struggle In Russian Poland Not Yet Decided; Gigantic Battle In Alsace

IS BERLIN TRYING TO FORCE ITALY INTO LINE?

By Associated Press. Rome, Friday, Dec. 4, 9:25 p. m.—The formal announcement that Prince Bernhard von Buelow, former chancellor of the German empire, had been placed at the head of the German embassy here while the present ambassador, Herr von Plotow, is to be absent for three months on account of his health, has aroused much comment in Rome. Although this move has been reported as probable for sometime, it may be said to have produced a considerable sensation. It is remarkable that a former chancellor would become the head of an embassy which is by no means considered the most important in the German diplomatic service. The appointment was discussed with animation in Italian political circles today. Some statesmen declared it to be Germany's answer to the declaration of Premier Salandra to the Italian parliament Thursday that there was no clause in any treaty binding Italy to participate with the Teutonic allies in the present conflict, and that Italy would maintain her present attitude of watchful and armed neutrality, while others recalled that Prince von Buelow had been most popular in Rome since he was ambassador to the Quirinal twenty years ago, and that his wife belongs to a very prominent Italian family. Many observers are of the opinion that the appointment of Prince von Buelow to this post means that Berlin is about to exercise strong pressure to prevent Italy from passing to the side of the allies.

Although Russia Claims Victory at Lodz General Reports Indicate That Positions of Opposing Forces Have Not Changed for a Week—Heavy Fighting in Alsace and West Flanders—Details of Battle Show With What Bravery Germans Cut Their Way Out of Russian Trap—Losses on Both Sides Heavy—Attitude of Italy Causes Much Speculation—Austrian Advance Checked by Powerful Attack of Enemy—Przemysl and Cracow Still Hold Out—Both Sides Claiming Progress. The desperate character of the hand to hand fighting in assaults or trenches, the use of hand grenades and bomb throwing machines as described in a British official eye-witness report issued today, which also discloses that the allies are using tunnel boring apparatus for subterranean approach to the German entrenchments. It is said that subterranean life is the rule along the firing line, where defensive operations have been brought to a state of such efficiency that the Germans have practically ceased their efforts to break through the line of the enemy by assaults. Opening fighting consequently has almost disappeared, and the contest has taken on the nature of siege operations. This report, however, covers the situation only up to November 29, since which time, as is shown by recent official statements, there have been heavy infantry engagements. Today's announcements from the French and German war offices contain claims of progress on both sides. At one point north of the Lys, says the French statement, an advance of 500 yards—a noteworthy movement in view of the character of the operations—was made. The intense character of the fighting is indicated by the fact that the war office considers it worthy of remark that one part of a hamlet remains in possession of the allies and that a ferryman's house which had been in dispute for a month had been captured. The German statement asserts that French assaults in Flanders were repulsed and that the German forces made progress in the region of LaBasse, northern France; in the forest of the Argonne and in the vicinity of Altkirch, Alsace. There was almost no news from the east. In one minor operation in east Prussia the Germans report 100,000 Russians were captured. The war office gives out without comment a newspaper report that the losses among the French troops amount to at least fifty per cent. Italy's attitude in the European war has again become a source of concern, in view of Premier Salandra's declaration that his country was in no way bound to fight with Germany and Austria, and the intimation that if her loyalty to treaty obligations were questioned further she would disclose the text of the Triple Alliance agreement. The German government's appointment of Prince von Buelow, former chancellor, as temporary head of the embassy at Rome is interpreted by Rome dispatches as meaning that Berlin would exert strong pressure to prevent Italy from joining forces with the allies. The newest phase of the war, so far as was indicated by the day's despatches is heavy fighting in Alsace, where the French have succeeded in maintaining a foothold on German territory since the opening of hostilities. Comparatively little has been heard of the struggle there, which is virtually a separate campaign, but now the French apparently have begun a vigorous offensive movement. The main battle is in progress near Altkirch, where, the German war office says the attacks of the French have been repulsed. Despatches are beginning to come in from Petrograd which give a closer view of the war in the east. They indicate that the Germans who fought their way out of the Russian trap performed a most desperate and valorous feat. The heavy force southeast of Lodz which was hemmed in is said to have cut its way with bayonets, step by step, for 15 miles, in the face of constant attacks, until it was able to rejoin the main body. This battle is described as the bloodiest and most pitiless of the war. Conditions Same in Poland. London, Dec. 5, 12:30 p. m.—While reports continue to come into London that the battle of Lodz has ended in a Russian victory, any official confirmation of this is lacking and it is apparent to British observers that conditions in the north of Poland are today virtually the same as they were one week ago, after the German army had been saved from overwhelming defeat by the brilliant operation of General Mazkenzen. Details of Lodz Fighting. Details of the Lodz fighting are beginning to filter through, and they easily prove it to have been the most bloody struggle of the entire war. The Germans are described as fighting their way through the Russian lines over the heaped up bodies of their comrades. Berlin claims heavy captures of prisoners in this struggle, while from Kiev comes the announcement that the fortress there is crowded with German prisoners. Incidentally, Kiev reports that since the beginning of the war 12,000 soldiers and 2,500 officers have passed through Kiev as prisoners of war. The allies have ceased claiming a tremendous victory in northern Poland, but they do assert that the operations there have been a strategic defeat for Germany and a tactical victory for Russia. Fortresses Hold Out. The Russians would appear not yet to have been diverted from their attacks in Galicia and the invasion of Przemysl and Cracow still are in tact, and are likely to put up a stronger defense against the Russians than did the Belgian forts against the Germans. Unless a decisive defeat can be inflicted on the Austrian army at Czenstochowa, it is argued in London, it is not probable that the Russian army of the south will be in position to begin any serious invasion of Silesia until Cracow has been reduced. In Flanders. An eye witness with the British forces in France reports that both sides in West Flanders are engaged.

BIG LINER ANTONY DISABLED BY STORM AND IN DISTRESS

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 5, 2:40 p. m.—The Booth steamship company's liner Antony, bound from Liverpool for Para, has been disabled by the storm now sweeping over England and is in distress fifty miles north of the Lizard. The captain of a local steamer received the signal "Want assistance" but was unable to help the Antony, his own vessel being short of coal. The Antony is of 3,760 tons net register.

STEAMER WATERLOO WITH MOST OF HER CREW LOST

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 5, 2:40 p. m.—The Norwegian steamer Waterloo of 1,283 tons, founded off the Lizard at midnight. Three persons were saved. The remainder of the crew is missing.

Most Pitiless Battle Of War Was When Germans Cut Out Of Russian Trap

By Associated Press. Petrograd, via London, Dec. 5, 6:25. —The most tragic moment of the fighting about Lodz thus far, it is reported here occurred between Tuszyn and Brzeziny, southeast of Lodz. Heavy German forces which had penetrated to Tuszyn, it appears, were surrounded and obliged to fight their way to Brzeziny to unite with the main body. The Russians essayed counter attack after counter attack to prevent the junction but the Germans cut a passage, at the point of the bayonet for a distance of 10 miles. This battle is called the bloodiest and most pitiless fight of the war. Ninety per cent of the German officers were put out of action and many regiments had less than one hundred men left. The fighting lasted 36 hours. The Germans fell in rows but their comrades pushed forward over the bodies and hurled themselves against the Russians.

BRITISH CRUISER VENUS ASHORE

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 5.—The British cruiser Venus ran ashore in the storm today, striking with her full force. Her foremast and a portion of the bridge was carried away by an enormous sea. The warship was running for a port in the south of England when the storm broke. Another victim of the gale, which is still raging along the coast, is an unidentified steamer which is ashore near Mersey. Three lifeboats have gone to her assistance.

GERMANS REPORT PROGRESS IN WEST

By Associated Press. Berlin, Dec. 5.—(By wireless to London, 2:15 p. m.)—An official statement was issued here today denying the report that the Krupp plant at Essen had been bombarded by a foreign aeronaut. The report referred to was contained in a dispatch from the Hague to the Exchange Telegraph Company in London on December 3, which stated that a message had been received there from Berlin telling of the bombardment by an aviator of the buildings at the Krupp plant which are devoted to the manufacture of cannon. It was stated that the airman escaped uninjured and that the extent of the damage inflicted had not been ascertained.

HEAVY FIRING HEARD IN UPPER ALSACE

Berne, Switzerland, via Paris, Dec. 5, 3:15 a. m.—The sound of heavy cannonading in upper Alsace has been heard as far as Basel and other localities near the Swiss frontier. The main struggle between the French and Germans, according to reports reaching the Swiss frontier is around Altkirch and Damerkirch. The inmates of a large mad house near Sennheim, more than 400 in number, were so frightened by the roaring of the guns that they became frantic and tried to break out of the asylum. The German authorities were obliged to convey all of them to Muthausen. A newspaper dispatch states that the Germans are mounting guns before the city hall and church in Colmar with the object of forcing the French to bombard the town in the hope that the population will be thus turned against the French.

SAY KRUPP PLANT WAS NOT BOMBARDED

By Associated Press. Berlin, Dec. 5.—(By wireless to London, 2:15 p. m.)—An official statement was issued here today denying the report that the Krupp plant at Essen had been bombarded by a foreign aeronaut.

BANK OF MILTON SHORT IN ACCOUNTS—CASHIER GONE

By Associated Press. Raleigh, Dec. 5.—The accounts of the Bank of Caswell at Milton, which closed its doors November 28, are short \$16,224.92, according to a statement given out here today by State Bank Examiner Hubbard. E. Hines, Jr., cashier of the bank, disappeared November 28, leaving a note stating his absence was short, it is said, to attend with a practically complete list of the items of the shortage. The bank will not be re-opened, according to the bank examiner. The assets are placed at \$14,225.84 and the liabilities at \$19,814.92.

SOUTH CAROLINA MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

By Associated Press. Florence, S. C., Dec. 5.—A mob took William Green, a negro, from officers near Coward, S. C., yesterday, hanged him to a tree and then riddled his body with bullets, according to reports received here. Green was arrested after he had been detected in the act of hiding under a house during the owner's absence. The negro's presence under the house was detected by the women occupants who were unprotected and who summoned the officers.

CARDINAL ANGELO DI PIETRO DEAD

London, Dec. 5, 12:19 p. m.—The Central News has received a dispatch from its Rome correspondent saying that Cardinal Angelo di Pietro, doyen of the sacred college, died this morning. Cardinal di Pietro was born May 26, 1828. He was papal nuncio at Madrid in 1887, and he was created and proclaimed a cardinal priest in 1893.

BIG CROWD GREETED GEN. CARRANZA

By Associated Press. Vera Cruz, Dec. 5.—General Venustiano Carranza returned to Vera Cruz late last night after a six-days' trip into the interior. He was received with military honors at the station where a big crowd gathered to welcome him. It is expected that the general will leave soon on a visit to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. General Carranza has named General Alvarado, formerly post commander at Mexico City, as chief of a zone covering the states of Vera Cruz, Puebla and Tlaxcala. General Pablo Gonzales will be in charge of Tamauulipas, Nuevo Leon and other northern states, and General Obregon, according to the plans will be sent to the west coast.

GERMANS REPORT PROGRESS IN WEST

By Associated Press. London, 3 p. m.—(By Wireless to London, 3 p. m.)—Progress of German forces in the west is reported in an official statement given out this afternoon at the army headquarters. The statement follows: "French attacks yesterday in Flanders and to the south of Metz were repulsed. We made progress at LaBasse, by the forest of the Argonne and in the region southwest of Altkirch. "In the fighting to the east of the Mazurian lakes the situation is favorable for us, and in minor operations there we took 1,200 prisoners. "Our operations in Poland are taking a normal course. "The Corriere del Terra estimates that the losses among the French troops amount to at least 50 per cent of those engaged in the war and that losses of even greater proportions have been suffered by the territorial forces." New York Money. New York, Dec. 5.—Closing: Mercantile paper 4 1-4; sterling exchange weak; 60 day bills 4.8325; for cables 4.875; for demand 4.8725; bar silver 49 3-4.

Watch Out for Seed Potatoes from Maine. By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 5.—The department of agriculture today issued a warning to farmers of New Jersey, Middle Atlantic and Southern States against buying seed potatoes from Maine, unless they bear the department's certificate showing the potatoes are free from powdery scab. They are also warned against the use of table potatoes for planting purposes, as these, according to the department, even though they do not appear to be diseased, may have been exposed to it.

WILL CARRANZA DESTROY RAILROAD? By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 5.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, informed the state department today of a dispatch from British Charge Hollier in Mexico City saying reports were current that General Carranza was planning to destroy the British-owned railroad between Vera Cruz and Mexico City by blowing up certain tunnels.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—Indictments were returned today naming two police officers and a former detective involved in the "graft" confessions of "Barney" Bertsche, and the brothers, Frank and James Ryan. The defendants, charged with conspiracy to obtain money by fraud and with bribery, are Captain James J. Halpin, Lieutenant John Tobin and former Detective Walter O'Brien.

THE WEATHER. Forecast for North Carolina. Cloudy tonight and Sunday, probably with rain. Fresh to strong northeast and east winds.

SERVIA AND RUMANIA NOW CUT OFF. Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 5.—(9:58 A. M.)—The great tunnel near Tychetchar (Tekija) has been blown up by dynamite, thus severing communication between Serbia and Rumania, according to advices from Nish, Serbia, to the Rotterdam Courant. The passage of Russian transports along the Danube, the dispatch states, has therefore become impossible.

PORTUGUESE CABINET RESIGNS.

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 5.—(12:58 P. M.)—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Lisbon says that all the members of the Portuguese cabinet resigned today in a body.

GERMANS REPORT PROGRESS IN WEST

By Associated Press. Berlin, Dec. 5.—(By wireless to London, 3 p. m.)—Progress of German forces in the west is reported in an official statement given out this afternoon at the army headquarters. The statement follows: "French attacks yesterday in Flanders and to the south of Metz were repulsed. We made progress at LaBasse, by the forest of the Argonne and in the region southwest of Altkirch. "In the fighting to the east of the Mazurian lakes the situation is favorable for us, and in minor operations there we took 1,200 prisoners. "Our operations in Poland are taking a normal course. "The Corriere del Terra estimates that the losses among the French troops amount to at least 50 per cent of those engaged in the war and that losses of even greater proportions have been suffered by the territorial forces." New York Money. New York, Dec. 5.—Closing: Mercantile paper 4 1-4; sterling exchange weak; 60 day bills 4.8325; for cables 4.875; for demand 4.8725; bar silver 49 3-4.