

Four Steamers Sunk By Mines Off British Coast In Zone Of German Raid

Accidents Occurred Off Flamborough Head Not Far Distant from Scarborough—Two of the Vessels Identified as the Princess Olga and the Elterwater—Part of Crews Perished—It is Believed Mines Were Laid Yesterday by German Raiding Cruisers—All Traffic in Those Waters Has Been Ordered Stopped.

The coast from Scarborough, one of the points bombarded yesterday by the German raiding cruisers. They were reported to have laid mines in their wake, as they steamed away. The area from Flamborough Head to Newcastle in which all traffic has been stopped, embraces the entire field in which the German raiders operated. The Princes Olga Lost. Scarborough, Dec. 17, via London.—(1:32 P. M.)—The steamer Princess Olga, bound for Aberdeen, Scotland, struck a mine off here last night and went down. The crew of 18 men landed in their own boats. The British steamer Princess Olga was a coaster of 438 tons and 186 feet long, and was built in 1901. The Elterwater also was a small coaster, 743 tons, 255 feet long and built in 1907.

Lone Automobile Bandit Makes Daring Raid On Two Cincinnati Banks

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 17.—A bandit operating alone, terrorized the West End business section of Cincinnati today, robbed two banks with a rifle of ten blocks, seriously wounded the cashier of one, shot at the cashier of the other, and seemed to have escaped the police in an automobile. It is known that he obtained \$10,000 in the first bank, the West End branch of the Provident Savings Bank & Trust Company, and officials of the Liberty Banking & Savings Company, the second bank robbed, believe the amount stolen from them will run into thousands.

George Winters, cashier of the Liberty Bank was shot by the bandit, and probably seriously injured. The robber again escaped in an automobile driven by himself. At the Provident Bank the robber climbed an eight-foot screen into the office and fired two shots at Cashier Edward Hughes. Then he seized \$2,000 on the cashier's desk, took from a table nearby \$6,000, backed to the door, and jumped into an automobile and sped away. Hughes, who had obtained his own revolver, fired at the retreating machine. Police in an automobile soon picked up the bandit's track and followed it through almost every street in the West End section.

A Great Battle Is Now In Progress At A Point Thirty Miles From Warsaw

Warsaw, via London, Dec. 17, 4:20 p. m.—A great battle is in progress at Sopot, 20 miles west of Warsaw. The German wedge which is proceeding in a southeasterly direction from Sopot 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 Sopot. The Polish campaign headquarters at that point. The German column was met at Sopot by fierce resistance by the Poles. Fighting was extremely severe, sometimes hand to hand encounters. Artillery fire was heavy and continuous. Reinforcements are being poured in rapidly on both sides. The Russians are bringing in troops from Warsaw. The Germans are moving forces from the Lodz region. Notwithstanding the conflicting nature of reports concerning the character of German operations it is evident their maneuvers which according to some reports include as many as five army corps, are being conducted along a line to the north of Lodz.

Gov. Goethals Off For Washington Six Persons Adrift At Sea

Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 17.—Helpless in a disabled gasoline launch with a southeast gale blowing, six persons were adrift early today off Redondo Beach. Other launches which started the rescue abandoned their search, but early today the destroyer Preble took it up. Those adrift were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Blake, Charles Blake, aged 22; Harriet Blake, aged 17, and Ruth Smith, aged 11, all of Redondo.

74 LIVES LOST, 147 INJURED IN GERMAN RAID ON ENGLISH COAST

MUCH GREATER ACREAGE SOWN IN WINTER WHEAT

Washington, Dec. 17.—Tremendous increases in the acreage devoted to the planting of winter wheat in the south were shown today in the department of agriculture's estimate of the total area sown in the United States. That amounts to 41,263,000 acres, an increase of 4,135,000 acres over the area sown last fall and on which the record crop of 684,990,000 bushels of winter wheat was harvested this year. The condition of winter wheat on December 1 was 88.3 per cent of a normal, almost 10 per cent lower than it was last year at this time and 2 per cent below the 10-year average on December 1.

South Carolina's acreage was increased 220 per cent compared with the 1913 planting; Alabama 485 per cent; Mississippi 125 per cent; Georgia 118 per cent; North Carolina 75 per cent; Virginia 60 per cent; Arkansas 44 per cent; Tennessee, Texas and Oklahoma 20 per cent. In the great wheat growing states the increases in acreage range from five to fifteen per cent, except in the greatest of winter wheat states, Kansas, where a two per cent decrease in acreage is shown.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Winter wheat was sown this autumn on 41,263,000 acres, an increase of 4,135,000 acres over the revised estimated area sown last fall, the department of agriculture announced today. The condition of winter wheat on December 1 was 88.3 per cent of a normal, against 97.2 last year, 93.2 in 1912 and 90.3, the 10-year average. Rye was sown on 2,851,000 acres, an increase of 78,000 acres over the revised estimated area sown last fall. Rye condition December 1 was 93.6 per cent of a normal, against 95.3 per cent last year, 93.5 in 1912 and 93.0, the 10-year average.

TWO MILLION DOLLAR FIRE IN POTTSVILLE, PA.

Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 17.—Fire in the business section of Pottsville early today destroyed property valued at nearly \$2,000,000. An entire block of business buildings stocked with holiday goods was destroyed. Twenty stores, the Pennsylvania National Bank and the Academy of Music were among buildings destroyed. The postoffice caught fire, but was not badly damaged. The fire started in the rear of the Woolworth store and spread on the one side to the Britton-Hoffman furniture store and on the other to City Department Store, the upper floors of which were used as offices. Inability to secure a sufficient water supply at first is given as a cause for the fire's rapid spread. Power was shut off because of the danger of broken wires and the city is without electric lights and power. Street car service is suspended. The Pennsylvania bank's valuables were locked in a fire-proof vault and are believed to be undamaged. The Union Safe Deposit Bank building, nearby, was slightly damaged but the bank opened for business while the fire was burning itself out. Much of the loss is not covered by insurance, especially that on the large stocks of holiday goods.

EXPORT MOVEMENT OF COTTON ON INCREASE

New Orleans, Dec. 17.—The export movement of cotton today was the largest of any day since the first of the season and the beginning of the European war. Total clearances from all United States ports for foreign ports amounted to 107,331 bales. The increase in shipments will make this week the record week for the season thus far with 291,491 bales cleared already, to which must be added the foreign clearances of tomorrow.

Great German General On Prussian Frontier



To General Machensen almost as much as to Feld Marshal von Hindenburg is given credit for halting the Russian invasion of East Prussia. While he has not become so well known as von Hindenburg the people of Berlin took on him as one of their heroes who has already saved them from the Russians.

OPPOSITION TO SCHEDULE ON THE S. A. L.

New Arrangement Will Bring No. 13 Into Charlotte at 12:30 A. M. Instead of 11 O'clock, if Connections Are Made.

Commercial Salesmen Who Make Towns Down the Seaboard Will Be Seriously Affected if the New Schedule is Put Into Effect.

Considerable comment is being occasioned in Charlotte by the receipt of the information that the Seaboard Air Line Railway contemplates a new schedule to be effective January 4, 1915, whereby train No. 13, which now arrives at Charlotte at 11 o'clock from Wilmington, bringing passengers from Raleigh also, will not reach this city until 12:30 a. m., if all connections are on time. The new schedule has been prepared, it is stated, and now awaits the approval of President Harahan, only to be put into effect. This new schedule, according to information brought to Charlotte this morning from Monroe means the cutting of the run of Nos. 11 and 12, trains which have long operated between Portsmouth, Va., and Atlanta, Ga., so that the 53 miles between Hamlet and Monroe will be eliminated from this run. But it also means that Nos. 11 and 12 will operate from Portsmouth, Va., to Hamlet, N. C., and return, and that another train will operate from Monroe, N. C., to Atlanta, Ga., and return, leaving the 53 miles between to be served only by train No. 13 and 14 operating between Wilmington and Charlotte. Chief Trouble. But the chief trouble does not lie in the fact that this train is cut out between these two towns, but in the fact that No. 13, which now leaves Wilmington at 3 p. m. and arrives in Charlotte at 11 p. m. will leave Wilmington at 4:30 and reach this city the corresponding hour and a half later. No. 13 will reach Hamlet at 9:05, the arriving time of the fast train from New York city to Florida and there will take on the Atlanta cars, one express and one Pullman car. The switching that will be necessary will make the leaving time under the new schedule, for No. 13 at about 9:30. Arriving at Monroe these cars will have to be switched out for the short run train between Monroe and Atlanta to take up and thus additional time is lost. This brings No. 13 into Charlotte.

GERMAN STEAMER PATAGONIA SEIZED

London, Dec. 17, 1:26 p. m.—A dispatch received here from Buenos Aires says that the Argentine cruiser Pueyrredon, after a hot chase, has seized the German steamer Patagonia in the gulf of San Jorge.

One Of Greatest Victories Of The War Is Claimed By Germans In Poland

BENT ON STOPPING MEXICAN FIRE ACROSS BORDER

Washington, Dec. 17.—Brigadier General Bliss, commanding the troops on the Mexican border, reported to the war department today he conferred at Naco yesterday with General Ramirez, military secretary of General Maytorena, the Villa commander. Ramirez was told by General Bliss what was expected of the Maytorena troops in shaping their operation against the Carranza forces so as to avoid danger of life and property on the American side of the line, and he undertook to communicate the representations to Maytorena. The war department has not made public details of General Bliss' report but Secretary Garrison declared it disclosed the conference was harmonious, and that General Bliss did not make threats as to what he would do if his warnings were unheeded. Officials here expect the orders of Provisional President Guiterrez to Maytorena to rearrange his forces if necessary to stop the fire into Arizona, will bear fruit before all the American troops and batteries ordered to Naco get into their positions. In official quarters no predictions are made as to the course the United States will pursue, but it is generally understood that after Brigadier General Scott arrives at Naco Saturday and conducts his negotiations with both sides of the Mexican factions, further firing into American territory can have but one result. Legal authorities here say if the United States troops were to shell the Mexicans out of their positions such an act would be repelling an invasion and not an attack upon Mexico.

STEAMER DERENTIE BATTLESHIP SUNK BY RUSSIAN

Petrograd, Dec. 17, via London, 4:10 p. m.—It was officially announced today that the steamer Derentie of the German Levantine line, was found navigating off the Turkish coast near Kerasunt and was sunk by a Russian warship after all on board the merchantman had been ordered to leave. Only two Turkish officers and twelve soldiers obeyed the order, and the others went down with the ship. Kerasunt is a seaport of Asiatic Turkey, 70 miles west of Trebizond on the Black sea.

NATURALIZED GERMAN CITIZENS ARRESTED

London, Dec. 17, 3:25 p. m.—All naturalized Germans in the seaport town of Sunderland, a short distance north of the English coast towns which were bombarded by the Germans yesterday, were arrested overnight, according to a dispatch published by the Exchange Telegraph Company.

Coast Towns Are Being Thrown Into Readiness for Another Attack Which is Expected—Great Rush at Recruiting Stations—German Cruisers Returned to Their Base Unharmed—In West Flanders While No Striking Turn in Events Has Been Recorded, Allies Seem Bent on Thrusting Germans Out—In the East Germans Lay Broad Plans for Cutting Off Russian Sources of Communication—Austrians Report Capture of 31,000 Russians While at Several Points Russians Are Said to be in Retreat.

One of the greatest victories of the war is claimed today by Germany. The Berlin 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 eastern situation and says 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 flanking 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 Belgium and northwestern France is the subject of conflicting claims. The German war office announces the allies have made new attacks but they have been beaten back with heavy losses. The French statement says several German trenches in Belgium have been captured by infantry assaults and that at other points to the south and east the allies' artillery has done effective work. Four steamers were sunk by mines off the east coast of England, in the territory covered yesterday by the raiding German warships which were said in England to have scattered mines to cover their retreat. Seventy-four persons were killed and 147 wounded, according to the best figures now available in the German raid on the east coast of England. Heaviest losses were in Hartlepool where, the British information bureau announces, fifty-five persons were killed and 115 wounded. Unofficial reports give the casualties in Scarborough at 15 killed and 30 wounded, and in Whitby at two killed and two wounded. The German success in running past the line of British warships and through mine fields and in escaping after the bombardments lead England to expect another attack, preparations for which are under way. Berlin newspapers hint yesterday's exploit may be the prelude to greater events on the sea. Germany's new plan for the operation against the Russian armies is unfolding gradually. Petrograd despatches say Austro-German flanking operations in the Carpathians and on the Vistula are being conducted on a large scale, and that they threaten Russian lines of communication. Such importance is attached to these maneuvers that apparently Germany is willing to risk an invasion by the Russian armies in the south, withdrawing troops from that region for use west of Warsaw. An official statement from Vienna says that in Galicia and southern Poland the Russians are retreating along the entire front and are being pursued. Russia's Caucasian army is having frequent encounters with the Turks but official statements are at such sharp variance that it is difficult to form an opinion of results. The Russian general staff states the Turks, reinforced, assumed the offensive in the Van region, Armenia, but were beaten decisively. The Turkish statement says these battles "resulted in our favor."

TURKISH TROOPS ARE BOMBARDED

London, Dec. 17, 12:25 p. m.—The German raid on the east coast has stimulated recruiting in the British Isles. Other results are preparations at coast points for protection of the civilian population in case of further attacks, and the organization in London of a national guard for local defense. In Flanders. In the west, especially in Flanders, the roles of the contending armies would appear today to have been clearly reversed. All the recent official communications, issued by the allies and the Germans refer to the allies' offensive from Ypres to the sea. Consequently the Germans are on the defensive. A British squadron, standing off the coast, has aided the attack near Neuport, but nowhere has marked progress been noted. It may be said, nevertheless, that the allies' attempt to push the Germans out of Belgium has definitely begun and that the results so far recorded in Flanders have converted the German line into a series of tenaciously held positions rather than a straight front; at many points allied wedges have been driven in. Russian Claims. Russia claims to have checked for the moment the Austrian movement across the Carpathian passes; she contends also that she has pushed the Germans further back toward the east Prussian frontier, at the northern extremity of the eastern front. West of Warsaw, however, the Germans continue their advance. The German press, commenting on the situation in the west has expressed the opinion that operations of importance are impending in Alsace, where, it is said, French reinforcements are being brought up. A new French attack from the direction of Toul also is expected in Berlin. It is added that German guns considerably damaged the French position in the Vosges, south of St. Die. The increase in recruiting, resulting from the German raid, is particularly

AUSTRIAN TRAINING SHIP SUNK

London, Dec. 17, 4:44 p. m.—In a dispatch from Rome the correspondent of the Central News says: "A Trieste official has announced the blowing up by a mine and the sinking of the Austrian training ship Beethoven with the loss of the crew and all the cadets on board."

CARRANZA FORCES EVACUATE PUEBLA

Washington, Dec. 17.—The city of Puebla in the Mexican state of that name, has been evacuated by Carranza forces and now is held by Zapatistas. A report to the state department today says Carranza troops burned the railroad station before departing. (Continued on Page 13.)

THE WEATHER. Forecast for North Carolina: Fair tonight, and Friday, not much change in temperature.