

Operations On Land And Sea Slacken While Airmen Are Playing The Leading Role

General Raids on Freiburg, Nancy, Metz and Sochazew Are Reported—Extent of Damage Not Known—Operations in the East and West Are Less Spirited—In Flanders the Onslaught of the Allies is Checked by Counter Attacks of Germans—Austrians Forced to Retreat Before the Galician Carpathians—No Decision in the Polish Campaign.

Initiative in military operations apparently has been left for the time being to airmen. Several raids across the English channel to the lower Thames, over Freiburg, Nancy, Metz and Sochazew, Russian Poland, and on the German naval base at Cuxhaven inflicted considerable damage in the aggregate.

Details of the Cuxhaven expedition remain lacking and although Berlin asserts the British aviators accomplished nothing, it was said in Hamburg that some damage was done. It is evident, however, that the heavy bombers prevented the British from fully executing their plans.

Activity on land and sea apparently is diminishing. Even in Russian Poland the fighting is becoming less severe, without a decision having been reached. Vienna admits the Austrians have been compelled to retreat before the Galician Carpathians, and in Berlin it is said that the attempt to cross the Bzura river, in the advance on Warsaw, has been abandoned.

In the west the allies' onslaught would seem to have been checked by the counter attack of the Germans. The French war office says today further progress has been made by the allies, particularly in the Meuse region. The admission is made, however, that a trench south of Ypres was lost to the Germans.

The Berlin communication states that Nieuport has again been under bombardment by British warships and that a few civilians were killed or wounded. It is asserted that attacks by the allies have been unsuccessful.

The American cruiser Tennessee is transporting 500 refugees of various nationalities from Jaffa, Syria, to Egypt. Captain Decker of the Tennessee reported to Washington that permission to remove the refugees had been granted by the Turkish authorities.

Less Activity on Battlefields. London, Dec. 28.—(11:35 A. M.)—The eastern and western battle fronts show no further developments. The offensive has momentarily shown a lack of vigor, while General von Hindenburg, German commander, seems to have come to a stand still at the Vistula, Vienna admits a check in the Austrian forces along the Galician front.

French Troops Advance. French troops in the last three days made minor advances judging from official Paris communications but apparently not at the same rate of speed reported a fortnight ago. Fog accounts in a measure for this slackening of efforts. With the exception of the capture of certain Anglo-Indian positions near the Lys, last week, most of which the allies claim to have regained the Germans' efforts to send back the allied line appear, British observers think, to have been generally abortive.

North of the river Vistula, in Russian Poland, the Germans, again reinforced, have retaken the town of Mlava but south of the river they still stand on their old ground. In Southern Poland where the German front joins the Austrian left there has been some fierce fighting with slight gains for the Austro-German allies, judging from reports coming from Berlin and Vienna.

MISS DODGE LEADER OF THE Y. W. C. A. DEAD

South Atlantic Field Committee Receives Telegram of Sudden Passing of President of the Association in the United States.

Long Leading Spirit in the Great Movement for Women in This Country—Memorial Service at Local Building is Probable.

Miss Grace Dodge president of the Y. W. C. A. in the United States of America, and the principal moving spirit in this great organization, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at the Dodge home on Madison avenue, New York city, according to a telegram received from Miss Davis of the national board field department by the South Atlantic Field Committee here today.

Miss Dodge has long been at the head of the Young Women's Christian Association and is known throughout the world as the leading spirit in the movement which is taking the place in the lives of the women of this country that is so well performed by the Young Men's Christian Association for their fathers and brothers.

She never visited the city of Charlotte but is well known by a number of the leaders in both Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. work in this city and section. She was present at and presided over the biennial convention of the Y. W. C. A. at Richmond, Va., and there she came in contact with a number of Charlotte women. She was at the time of her death preparing to visit Chicago to preside over a great meeting there and has been making plans for the convention which is to be held next year at San Francisco in connection with the Panama Exposition.

The telegram which arrived this morning telling of her death came as a distinct shock to the members of the South Atlantic Field Committee who had no intimation of her serious illness. After only a very short illness which was not thought to be of any consequence, Miss Dodge expired suddenly in the old Dodge home on the old part of Madison avenue, which has so long been the home of the Dodge family, many members of which have been prominent in public work in and about the city of New York.

Miss Dodge was a woman of great executive ability, according to those who have been associated with her, and her work for the young women of the country has brought her into close touch with thousands of people who will hear of her death with personal sorrow.

The telegram gave no details of Miss Dodge's death, and no mention was made of the funeral services, but it is expected that a memorial service will be held at the local Y. W. C. A. building either during the hour of the funeral or at some given time when members and officers may gather to pay tribute to their leader.

Germany Will Fight to the Bitter End.



GRAND-ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ OF GERMAN NAVY. That Germany will fight to the hilt is the statement of Admiral von Tirpitz, one of the strong men of Germany and the builder of the present German navy.

THE TENNESSEE USED TO TRANSPORT MANY REFUGEES

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 28.—The cruiser Tennessee with the permission of the Turkish government at the request of the American Ambassador Morgenthau, is transporting 500 refugees of various nationalities from Jaffa, Syria, to Alexandria, Egypt.

Captain Becker of the Tennessee, reported the departure of his vessel from Jaffa in a message filed last night and received today at the navy department. Secretary Daniels summarized the report in this statement:

"The Tennessee is transporting about 500 refugees of different nationalities from Jaffa to Alexandria. These refugees were unable to get passage from Jaffa by any other means. Captain Becker states that his action was taken at the request from the consuls, which requests, approved by the American ambassador to Turkey, had been made after permission had been given by the Turkish authorities."

No reply came today, however, from either Captain Decker or Captain Oman, of the North Carolina, to the request for full information regarding the unofficial report that an unnamed American warship had threatened to bombard Tripoli. Athens dispatches said Turks attacked the crew of an American commercial ship which permitted foreign refugees to board her in the face of a protest from the Turkish authorities and that a threat to open fire on Tripoli followed.

FOUR PERISH IN FIRE AT CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 28.—Four deaths and the probable fatal burning of another inmate in the fire which trapped sleeping occupants of the city home early today was definitely established when the officials checked up the register. Many others among the 238 inmates, mostly aged men and women, suffered severely from fright and exposure. Police, firemen and nurses assisted them down stair ways, fire escapes and ladders and while the building was burning they were cared for by nearby residents.

NO FURTHER REPORT FROM PHILIPPINES

Washington, Dec. 28.—No further reports from Governor General Harrison on the insurrectionist disturbances in the Philippines had come to the war department today and officials declare the governor general's cable of yesterday giving details of scattered disorders and generally minimizing their importance was all they expected unless there were new developments.

EMPEROR JOSEPH SENDS HIS THANKS

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 28.—The state department today announced receipt of the following telegram from Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna:

"Emperor Francis Joseph has communicated to me his grateful thanks to the sympathetic friends in America who sent gifts of clothing and toys to the war orphans by ship Jason. Half million gifts this week are being distributed throughout Austria-Hungary. The emperor thanks every donor and person taking part in work of sending Christmas cheer to his suffering people."

DYNAMITE WRECKED FOUR BUILDINGS

By Associated Press. Hymera, Ind., Dec. 28.—A dynamite explosion of undetermined origin wrecked four business buildings here early today and demolished plate glass windows in a dozen others. Police are working on the theory that the blast was caused by enemies of Walter Wilson, who owned a saloon in one of the buildings that was wrecked.

The Russian Forces Attacking Cracow Have Been Driven Back Fifty Miles

Strong Fortress is Now Free From Menace of Russian Attack—Order for Retreat of Russians Came When it Seemed Austrians Were About to Divide the Russian Army—Cracow is Considered a Fortress of Great Importance—Russians Claim Retreat Was for Strategic Reasons.

Russian forces which have been attacking the Galician fortress of Cracow have been driven back 50 miles, and Cracow is now free from immediate menace. It is asserted in Petrograd that the Russians have improved their strategic position by falling back. The capture of Cracow, however, long has been sought by Russia, being regarded as an important step on the way to an invasion of Germany across the Silesian border.

Elsewhere in the east few changes have occurred, the Germans having temporarily relaxed their assaults on the Russian line west of Warsaw.

Petrograd, Dec. 28, via London, 3:18 p. m.—The investment by the Russians of the Austrian fortress of Cracow has again been raised. Following the discovery of an attempt made by the Austrians to divide the Russian forces in Galicia the Russians retreated eastward for a distance of fifty miles.

The Russian Galician army which a short time ago was in touch on the south with the Austrian garrison defending Cracow, moved back to the Biala river about fifty miles east of the former Russian position.

Notwithstanding that the Russian retrogression completely relieved the investment of the fortress of Cracow it was claimed by military observers to be a marked advantage for the Russians, the retirement being due to the discovery of the Austrian aim to cut into halves the Russian forces in that region.

The Austrians reports from the Russian southern front say, began advancing December 23 from Tymbarok, 35 miles southeast of Cracow, apparently to swing around the Russians' left along the river Biala northward to Tarnow and join forces with the army of General Boehm-Ermolli.

SAY VILLA FORCES ARE EVACUATING MEXICO CITY

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 28.—The Carranza agency here today published the following telegram received from Carranza representatives at Galveston:

"Semi-official reports here, although not confirmed, say that, due to lack of communications the Villa forces are evacuating Mexico City. It is believed they are doing this on account of the crying need of forces in the north to save lines of communication and to prevent Torreón, Chihuahua and Juarez from being captured. Villa would prefer to engage in battle outside of the capital with Carranza's army of 100,000 men lying between here and Mexico City.

"Eulalio Gutierrez, through a commission, has authorized Antonio I. Villarreal, as president of the now extinct Aguascalientes convention, to accept his resignation as provisional president and to notify Carranza that his services will be at the orders of the first chief.

"The whereabouts of Gutierrez are now not definitely known, but it is believed he is making his way toward San Luis Potosi. This action on the part of Gutierrez, which is being followed by many of his subordinates, is thought to account in part also for Villa's hurried concentration in the north.

FRANK'S APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT IS ALLOWED

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 28.—An appeal to the United States supreme court has been granted by Justice Lamar in the case of Leo M. Frank.

Louis Marshall, Frank's counsel, announced this afternoon that he had received word from Justice Lamar to this effect.

Appeal Granted. Washington, Dec. 28.—Justice Lamar of the supreme court today granted an appeal from the decision of the Georgia federal court which refused to release Leo M. Frank on a habeas corpus proceeding. Frank is under death sentence for the murder of Mary Phagan, an Atlanta factory girl.

NEW ORLEANS PAPERS DECLARE 'OPEN SHOPS'

New Orleans, Dec. 28.—Although the three New Orleans newspapers last night declared for the "open shop" as regards their composing rooms, the two afternoon papers today prepared to publish only slightly smaller papers than usual.

The principal point that caused the break between the typographical union and the publishers was the "five day" rule recently enforced by the union. It provides that a printer holding a position may work only five days a week. This the publishers claim caused unnecessary confusion and extra expense.

FISH FACES ARSON CHARGE

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Joseph Fish, millionaire fire insurance adjuster who was acquitted of a charge of arson Christmas eve, was placed on trial today on another arson charge.

EUROPE PLACES ORDERS IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 28.—Orders for 65,000 tons of high carbonized steel rounds appeared in the Pittsburgh district today, 50,000 tons for France and 15,000 tons for Russia. Recently 25,000 tons of this grade of steel, used in making shrapnel shells, were shipped to Europe.

It is estimated \$6,000,000 worth of trenching tools, galvanized sheets, wire and projectile steel, have been bought in Pittsburgh for the European belligerents in the last two months.

AMERICAN KILLED BY CANADIAN OFFICIAL

By Associated Press. Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 28.—One American was instantly killed and another seriously wounded by Canadian troops patrolling the Canadian border at Fort Erie, Ont., opposite Buffalo, today.

The men were hunting ducks out of season in the Niagara river and in Canadian waters. Provincial Police Officer Delaney of Fort Erie ordered them to stop shooting. They declined and Delaney called upon a corporal and two privates of the 44th battalion of the Canadian militia for assistance.

The corporal ordered the men to come ashore. Instead they headed their boat for the American shore and were hurrying away when at the order of Delaney the soldiers fired upon them.

Walter Smith was shot dead and Charles Dorsch was seriously wounded. Both lived in Buffalo.

Secretary Bryan was notified of the shooting by Vice Consul Curtis of Fort Erie.

"Whether complications will result is a debatable question," said Curtis. "While two Americans were shot, the information available indicates they were shooting ducks without a Canadian license and were in Canadian waters where they had no right to be under the circumstances. No arrests have been made as a result of the shooting."

RESERVE BOARD FIXES REDIS-COUNT RATE

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 28.—The federal reserve board approved today rediscount rates of 4 1/2 per cent on maturities up to thirty days, and five per cent on maturities between 30 and 90 days for the Philadelphia federal reserve bank. This is the first bank to establish a rate below five per cent.

ALFORD ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE

By Associated Press. Trenton, Tenn., Dec. 28.—James A. Alford, wealthy business man of Rutherford, Tenn., today was acquitted of the murder of Harry Coulter, a lawyer, in September, 1913. The case had been in the hands of the jury since Saturday evening. Alford claimed he shot Coulter and the latter's father, W. S. Coulter, in defense of his home.

WEATHER FORECAST: Forecast for North Carolina. Cloudy tonight and Tuesday, probably rain; rising temperature. Moderate northeast winds.