

FRENCH ADVANCE NEAR NORTH SEA

Paris War Office Tells of Success of Sapping Operations in the Dunes.

GAINS MADE AT OTHER POINTS Attacks of Germans in Region of Alsace and in Champagne Are Reported—Batteries on the Woevre Silenced.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The French official statement given out this afternoon reveals a series of French successes of apparent minor importance from the sea on the north to the frontier of Alsace on the south.

Fog prevented fighting near Arras and Verdun, and there has been artillery activity southeast of Amiens, near Villers-sur-Tourne, and in the forest of Apremont. The text of the communication follows:

"From the sea to the Lys we made progress by sapping operations in the dunes and we repulsed an attack in front of Lombardsyde. At Zwartelen to the southeast of Ypres, we occupied a group of houses and we drove back as far as the southern part of this village a counter-attack of the enemy. This was done in spite of a very spirited fire from the German artillery.

The Belgian army pushed forward certain detachments along the right bank of the Yser to the south of Dixmude and organized a defensive work protecting the head of a bridge.

"In the region of Arras the fog still made all operations impossible. To the east and to the southeast of Amiens, especially in the suburbs of Launoy, there have been artillery exchanges.

"In the region of the Aisne the Zuavens, during all day yesterday, held back brilliantly a number of attacks. They remained masters at a point near the road to Puisseville of the German trenches occupied by us December 22.

"In Champagne we strengthened the positions taken by us in our advance of the night before in the region of Craonne and Rheims.

"In the vicinity of Perthes all the counter attacks of the enemy on the positions conquered by us December 22 were successfully repulsed. To the northwest of Annelles-Hurles we occupied German trenches for a distance of 400 yards, and we drove back a counter-attack. The Germans endeavored to take the offensive in the direction of Ville-sur-Tourne, but our artillery dispersed them.

"In the Argonne we took possession of a piece of ground in the forest of La-Grurie, and in the vicinity of Bagatelle we repulsed a German attack.

Counter Attacks Checked. "In the region of Verdun the prevalence of fog made impossible the conduct of any operations of importance. The enemy delivered a counter attack, but without success, in the forest of Consoyevoye.

"In the forest of Apremont our artillery demolished and caused the enemy to evacuate several trenches. In the Woevre district the French artillery reduced certain German batteries to silence.

"In the region of Ban De Supt, to the northeast of Die, our infantry advanced with a rush and established itself on the territory thus gained.

"There is nothing to report from upper Alsace.

"Russia—On the Bura river the Germans have maintained themselves in two positions. On the contrary, at a point north of Sochocow they were driven back to the river which flows to the southwest of this town. Their efforts to debouch from Bolnow resulted in failure. At the present time the Germans are essaying to cross the river Rawka to the southeast of Skiernewice.

"To the south of Rawka the Germans are resisting stubbornly a pronounced Russian offensive movement, being delivered along the northern bank of the river Pilia.

GREAT CITIES MAKE MERRY ON THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS DAY

(Continued from Page One.)

was widely adopted this year and to a degree supplanted the display of holly leaves and mistletoe boughs.

Sing in Streets. BOSTON, Dec. 24.—A light snow fell, pressing a white Christmas greeted the opening of holiday festivities tonight.

Tree in State House Yard. COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 24.—With charitable organizations prepared to feed all who are without funds, and a big Christmas tree in the state house yard to top off the day, the city tonight began celebrating a typical snowy holiday season.

Officers of the different charity organizations said that the number of homeless and poor without funds is larger than it has been for several years. It was also asserted that contributions for the relief of the war sufferers have cut in heavily on the customary donations of money to local charities.

Would Trade Briton For Five Germans

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Efforts recently were made officially, says the Daily Telegraph, to ascertain whether Germany would consent to an exchange of civilian prisoners interned in England and Germany.

Department Orders. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Nebraska postmasters appointed: Honolulu, Boyd Conroy, of Honolulu; vice E. H. Lewis, resigned; Palmyra, Otago county, Miss Orpha Hall, vice Mrs. M. E. Sewell, resigned; V. J. Kovarik, Hickman, Lancaster county, James W. Jones.

The Interstate Commerce commission order hearings to be held on February 15 at Omaha, will be held in the following places: Traffic bureau against Commercial club of St. Louis and Atchison, Kan., against Chicago & North Western Railway company, department of traffic of commercial club of Kansas

Cornell Boys in a Fox Trot Stunt



R. A. DOYLE AND H. J. ADAIR OF THE CORNELL GLEE CLUB IN DANCING SPECIALTY.

H. J. Adair, '15, dressed in the most daring of feminine finery, and R. A. Doyle, '15, the gentleman, will interpret the Maxixe, tango, fox-trot and original modern dances as a special number at the concert to be given by the Cornell Glee, Banjo and Mandolin clubs for local charity at the American theater on Monday evening.

The tango, most famous of modern dances, was imported by Paris from the Barbary coast in San Francisco, but San Francisco imported or stole it from the dance halls in Chicago. When it reached Paris and gripped the attention of everybody it was accounted a famous American dance from the Argentine. But nobody in the Argentine states ever had seen it performed in anything like the performance shown by the dancers in Chicago and San Francisco. But, after all, the dance was only an expression of hilarity. As such it appealed to the gay Parisiennes and, of course, was taken up greedily by the say "capitalists" of Europe. It became fashionable in the best circles in England and America, to say nothing of Canada.

But wait until the cities see the wonderful figures cut by the foremost dancing pair of the Cornell musical club. There is nothing in the tango-choreon art so far interpreted that is not outdone by the two young men from Cornell—Messrs. Adair and Doyle.

These two youths are accounted the two best dancers ever turned out upon an unsuspecting public of debutantes. There is no dance with which they are unacquainted and there are several with which none are acquainted but they. They breathe, eat, dream, read, exude, feel and acknowledge the graces which give Terephore a place in mythology. These two young men will dance when the grave closes over them, according to the belief of their acquaintances.

They have a brace of new dances with which the public never has been inflicted. They do stunts which would make the most terphichoreon of terphichoreans turn enviously green, for, although one of them is dressed as a lady, he or she is still a man, and possessed of all the agility and disregard of danger necessary in the most modern of cabaret dances.

WASHINGTON LAYS OFF FOR CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page One.)

taking advantage of the last few hours to see it personally that everything was in order for Christmas day. Little Annie Gotman of Philadelphia, the president's grand-niece, is a White House guest for the holidays, and for the first time in years a large fir Christmas tree had been set up. The president was to act as "Santa Claus."

White House employees to the number of 125, including clerks, domestics and policemen, were happy today because the president had presented each of them with a fifteen-pound turkey as a Christmas gift. Distribution of the birds to White House employees is a long established custom.

All of the executive departments had arranged to close at noon for the holidays and the thousands of employees joined in real Christmas celebrations.

Wilson Goes Golfing. President Wilson went golfing early today despite a heavy snowstorm. Children living along the road he takes to the golf club were made happy by the arrival of an automobile filled with presents from the White House.

The president had no callers scheduled during the remainder of the week and planned to go to the executive offices as little as possible.

With the exception of Secretary Garrison, who will spend Christmas at Atlantic City, all the members of the cabinet will be here tomorrow. The president has exchanged gifts with each of them.

SHERWOOD R. MAGEE IS TRADED TO BOSTON BRVES

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—Sherwood R. Magee, the hard-hitting outfielder of the Philadelphia National league club, taken today to the Boston Nationals for cash and some players. The deal was put through at a meeting held in New York today by President W. F. Baker of the Philadelphia club and President Gaffney of the Boston.

HYMENEAL Ferrell-Williams. FAIRBURY, Neb., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—A quiet December wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith Williams in this city when their daughter, Miss Hallie, was married to Edward Ferrell, also of this place. Rev. J. T. Parker of the Baptist church officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrell left for Morehead, Ia., to spend the holidays with relatives. They will return to Fairbury and go to housekeeping. The groom has a position with the railroad here.

Wilson-Webb. SAC CITY, Ia., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Hiram L. Wilson and Miss Mary Jeannetta Webb were married Thursday evening at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Webb, six miles north of Sac City. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will be at home after March 1 on a farm owned by Mr. Webb and adjoining the one on which he resides.

Indigestion and Weak Stomachs. Take Electric Bitters; it gives appetite, strengthens the digestive organs, lessens the work of liver and kidneys. 50c and \$1.00. All druggists.—Advertisement.

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SUBMARINE RAIDS FRENCH SQUADRON

Austrian Boat Attacks Fleet of Sixteen Ships in Otranto Channel.

RESULT OF FRAY IS UNKNOWN

Galleie Below-Surface Craft Reported Sunk by Shore Batteries, According to Word from Vienna.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—(Via London.)—An official telegram received here today from Vienna, says:

"The French submarine Curie was fired upon by our coast batteries without having been able to deliver any attack. The members of its crew were imprisoned.

Attacks French Squadron. "Our submarine No. 12, attacked on December 21, a French squadron composed of sixteen ships in the Otranto channel. The submarine twice successfully torpedoed two battleships of the Courbet type, but the consequent confusion among the hostile squadron, the dangerous proximity of some of the ships and the high sea running, rendered it impossible for the submarine to establish with certainty the fate of the torpedoed ships."

Confirms Vienna Report. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Foreign office dispatches received tonight by the Austro-Hungarian embassy here confirmed the Vienna announcement of the submarine attack upon French battleships in the Otranto channel, giving the date as December 21, and told of the sinking of a hostile submarine by shore batteries.

The message added: "In Galicia and in Poland stubborn fighting continues with success for the Austro-Hungarian troops."

Damage Only Slight. LONDON, Dec. 24.—(217 p.)—An official statement given out in Paris today states that an Austrian submarine torpedoed a French battleship in the Gulf of Otranto. The battleship was damaged only slightly. No one was injured.

Statement from Paris. PARIS, Dec. 24.—An official communication, issued today by the French minister of marine, says:

"An Austrian submarine fired two torpedoes at a French armored cruiser in the Gulf of Otranto, one of them exploding forward. The damage done to the vessel was unimportant. None of the cruiser's crew was injured.

The Gulf of Otranto is in the Adriatic, at the southern end of Italy.

See Want Ads Produce Results.

We Wish You a Joyous Christmas

May the example of the One to Whom this day is dedicated be more impressively brought before us than ever before.

George Menagh Founder of The House of Menagh

"The Store for Gentlewomen"

A LETTER

The following is taken from a letter written by a prominent business man to THE MIDWEST LIFE:

"Explaining why I am borrowing at this time on my policy will say that I have quite an important business project on hand taking all of my available means for the next four or probably six months. The other day in running over my resources, I found that by calling on all of the companies in which I held policies, I could borrow about \$5,000 at this time. I mention all of this because it has shown me a new and valued use of an old line life insurance policy. I have always been a believer in insurance of this character, but I am more confirmed in it now than ever especially when I contrast it with my assessment policies, all of which bear no loan or redemption value."

THE MIDWEST LIFE N. Z. SNELL, PRESIDENT A NEBRASKA STOCK COMPANY

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AMUSEMENTS

BRANDEIS TODAY, MAT., 3 P. M. EVENING, 8:30 P. M. THE PRINCE OF PILEM WITH JOHN W. SANBORN. Matinee, 25c to \$1.—Evenings, 50c to \$1.50

Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Prices 25c to \$1.50. Gala Matinee Wednesday—The BLUE BIRD

Original Company and Production.

BOYD Boucals 1918 Tonight, Mat. Xmas, 3, Sat., 25c. The Boyd Theater Stock Co. The Woman in the Case. Prices, 25c and 50c. Next Wk. Cinderella, 100 People. Tuesday, Society Night. Mrs. Treadwell Dale Turner in Songs

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER." Daily Mat., 15-25-50-75c Evngs., 15-25-50-75c EVERYBODY'S MATT KENNEDY AND LIBERTY GIRLS Musical Burlesque "Alimony Club," "Treatise of Adolph," "Bitter on Gilbert & Sullivan's Opera, "The Miracle," "The Shrews in Foolhardy Exploit," "Gene Gene's," "rotten Artist, Big Beauty Chapter," "Xmas Day Matinee at 3 O'clock Sun. and Wk. "The Orphy Matine."

ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE Daily Matinee, 2:15—Night, 8:15. This week, Cross & Josephine, Streets & Marshall, Herbie Stone & Co., The Boys & Loyal, The Seven Colonial Belles, Balls & Diamonds, Joe & Lew Cooper, Orpheum Travel West.

Prices: Matinee, gallery, 10c; best seats (except Saturday and Sunday), 25c. Night, 25, 50, 75, 1.00

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Our Wish to You--- A Merry Christmas

THOMPSON, BELDEN & CO.

French Families Make Sacrifices to Send Presents to Fathers and Sons

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Christmas at the front will be as cheerful and comfortable as the love and self-denial of well-nigh every family in France can make it. The spirit of those at home is not to give presents to one another, but to unite and give all to the son, father or brother serving with the flag.

Many a family in France probably will dine meagerly tonight and tomorrow because of the packages of soft woolen things and boxes of delicacies which have gone to the kinemen at the front. Then there are field glasses, wrist watches, sleeping bags and an amazing variety of campaign conveniences.

The military administration has been most considerate in providing transport so that all this month numerous vans loaded with holiday packages were among the long supply trains back of the army.

Many a lone soldier without family has received various packages of things to eat, wear, smoke or drink from societies and from the government. The ministry of war, among other things, is sending a bottle of champagne for every four soldiers at the front.

All the plum puddings in the shops of Paris have been taken by the French military to send to the British soldiers. The Belgian refugees, especially the children, are being so overfed that the committees in charge of them have postponed by agreement various dinners and entertainments so as to extend them over the next ten days.

King Albert of Belgium has sent a box of twenty-five cigars to each of the Belgian soldiers. All the hospitals have arranged concerts, recitations and stereopticon shows for convalescing soldiers.

The American hospital is bright with holly and mistletoe. Madame Polcare, wife of the president of France, has sent 5,000 packages of toys, candy and clothing to 3,000 Alsace-Lorraine children who live in the territories reconquered by France.

The French government is delivering great quantities of packages from Germany to prisoners of war. For the most part they are useful things, like blankets, underwear and woolen socks. Similar deliveries, it is understood, will be made by the German authorities to French prisoners.

CAPTURE OF LODZ IS TURNING POINT IN EASTERN FIGHT

(Continued from Page One.)

of this exploit, which a member of the general staff characterized as one of the most brilliant of the war, was Strykow, ten miles to the northeast of Lodz.

Battle in Church Yard. About the same distance west of Lodz is located the little suburb of Beschid, where the Russians, in one of the final phases of the struggle for Lodz, showed that in spite of their defeats and discouragements, they know how to fight and die. This church yard lies on a small eminence which formed a salient into the German lines.

"The Germans were able to make an attack from three sides with infantry and artillery. All the Russian trenches were annihilated by shrapnel from one direction or another, but the Russians clung to their positions obstinately. When the Germans finally captured the trenches 578 Russian corpses were found in a space about eighty yards square.

It was resistance of this nature which the Germans had to overcome to capture Lodz.

The Russians are again offering obstinate resistance, as was learned today from German staff officers along the Bura and Rawka rivers, on their positions running north and south along a line thirty to thirty-five miles west of Warsaw.

A captured Russian officer, who speaks good German, said that what impressed him and his men most greatly was the Prussian "Anspruch"—the silent advance of the German troops, the assault by line after line of dark figures moving toward the Russian position like wavelets of a rising tide, their utter heedlessness of the Russian fire, which appeared to be wasted on them. They saw men fall, but the gaps were filled up instantly by others from the rear line and the advance kept on. All this gave the effect of something irresistible, the Russian officer said. To see the silent lines of Germans come on and on, despite all their efforts, tried them terribly causing nerves to snap.

Lodz Quietly Evacuated. The Russian evacuation of Lodz was effected so quietly and was covered so well that the Germans did not learn of it. The next morning they found that the Russian troops had disappeared as though they had vanished from the face of the earth. The usual German night patrols had been sent out to keep in contact with the enemy, but the Russians threw a thin, but impenetrable screen before their front. Major Hollenbe's battalion lost four of its most capable patrol leaders.

German officers say that volley firing is still customary with the Russians, whereas the Germans have eliminated it in favor of individual firing.

A large part of the population is buying itself in the German trenches, salvaging the wood which the Germans used for constructing their defenses.

Heavy fighting occurred at the town of Konstantow, ten miles southwest of Lodz. It suffered mostly from artillery fire, the town being bombarded by both sides. Little was left but naked walls. The outer suburbs of Lodz suffered less severely, and the city itself, as far as could be ascertained, has not been damaged. An efficient municipal administration has been set up by the military authorities, who have inaugurated much needed sanitary measures, including compulsory house cleaning.

FEW CHANGES AT EITHER FRONT ON CHRISTMAS EVE

(Continued from Page One.)

Rawka and Bura rivers, to the east of Lodz, are reported to have cost the invaders heavy losses. The Germans are said to have left on the field near a Skiernewice more than 1,000 dead. This was only one of a series of stubborn engagements.

The Germans appear to be feeling their way for a weak point in the Russian defense, but the operations are made more difficult owing to the swampy nature of the valleys.

The determined German attacks are reported to have been made in the center of the entire front between Rawka and Opocno, on a line thirty miles east of Piotrkow. These clashes are believed to have been between the cavalry divisions which are protecting the right German flank and the left Austrian flank, and a strong Russian column advancing on Tomaszow.

Two Russian second lieutenants and seven privates made a bold dash for a bivouac of German artilleryists, resting after a day's retreat near Boldau, East Prussia, and captured a 10-centimeter mortar. Believing that they were attacked in force, the Germans fled. The Russians hitched up the German horses and towed the guns into their own lines.

Palace of Essad Pasha is Burning

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A dispatch from Durazzo, Albania, to the Central News says that the palace of Essad Pasha at Tirana has been set on fire.

Essad Pasha, always prominent in Albanian military and political circles, was named provisional president following the recent retirement of Prince William of Wied, who had been selected by the powers to rule Albania. Essad Pasha was last reported as advancing on Scutari, and it was said that he had proclaimed a holy war in Albania.

Tirana, where his palace is located, is about seventy miles south of Scutari.

DEATH RECORD

Alonso A. Watts. TABOR, Ia., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The funeral of Alonso A. Watts was held Wednesday at 2 o'clock p. m. in the Christian church. Rev. John Clark officiated. The deceased was over 85 years of age. Death resulted from old age.

Besides his widow deceased is survived by two sons and one daughter, Albert Watts of Maryville, Mo., and George Watts of Tabor and Mrs. John Evans of Thurman.

Mrs. Florence Curtis. BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Mrs. Florence Curtis of Erie, Pa., novelist and former editor of Good Housekeeping, died in a hospital here today.

Throat and Lung Trouble Will cause to trouble you by the timely use of Dr. King's New Discovery; sure relief. 50c and \$1.00. All druggists.—Advertisement.

Night Court for Chicago. CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—A night court will be established here in January. Informative vote on the subject was taken by the municipal judges this afternoon.

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