

CHRISTMAS CAROLS SUNG ON WAR FIELD

Eve of Holiday Celebrated by Germans After Russian Attack on Lines is Over.

DELAYED STORY FROM FRONT

Scarcely a Shelter Hut in Trenches and Artillery Positions that Does Not Display Its Yuletide Tree.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE TENTH GERMAN INFANTRY DIVISION ON THE RAVKA RIVER, Poland, Dec. 31.—(Via Courier to Berlin, thence to London, January 3.)—Artillery preliminaries for a general infantry attack will begin at noon; infantry attack begins at 2 o'clock. This was the Christmas day order telephoned and signalled to the German army on the Ravka yesterday morning.

The thunder of a heavy cannonade and the rattle of infantry fire was heard along the whole line during the short Christmas afternoon. The attack resulted in a slight advance of the Tenth infantry. At one point a brigade was thrown across the swampy valley and succeeded in gaining a foothold on the other side.

Progress Slow. But progress was slow against the triple row of Russian trenches on the hills and in the woods on the east bank of the Ravka, which position is protected by a broad belt of swamps in which the Germans cannot entrench, as their trenches fill immediately with water.

The short winter days and the fogs hanging constantly over the valley give the German artillery only an hour or two daily in which to cover the German advance by an effective bombardment. A few days of hard frost and clear, cold weather would make the task easier, but the winter in Poland so far has been exceedingly mild. There is no snow and the ground is marshy, converting into quagmires the roads over which ammunition supplies must be transported.

Headway Necessarily Slow. Under such circumstances only slow headway can be expected in a frontal attack against the present Russian positions.

A few hours of sunshine yesterday gave the German aviators their first opportunity in a week to reconnoiter the Russian lines. One of the aviators reported that long wagon trains were parked in the road through the forest, near the Russian lines. This information was conveyed to the German artillery and a surprise was arranged for the Russians. At a given signal several heavy batteries opened fire on the road.

Have Exact Range. The effect could not be determined definitely as the fog again settled before the aviator could reconnoiter. The batteries had exact range, however, and the havoc caused was presumed to have been great. But little was heard during the day from the Russian artillery, which is believed to be short of ammunition on this section of the front.

Although Christmas was a battle day for the Germans, Christmas eve, which to the Germans is the most important part of the yuletide, was comparatively quiet. A Russian message had announced a general attack along the whole line for the evening. When the Germans were celebrating the Russian attack, however, developed in force only at one point—against the German army corps in the south of this place, where the Russians launched a heavy infantry attack, well supported by artillery. They were beaten off and lost heavily, particularly in prisoners.

Trees in Shelter Huts. Elsewhere along the line the German soldiers celebrated Christmas as nearly as possible in home fashion. There was scarcely a shelter hut in the trenches and artillery positions, which did not display a Christmas tree decorated with tinsel and gay colored candles that had been repurposed in the soldiers' knapsacks for many weeks. The counterpart of such things along the line, was a whole line of trees exhibited by the proud soldiers.

Most of the Christmas packages from home had to arrive, having been delayed by the miserable roads and rapid movements of the army. But food tins, bottles of wine, slips of rum and attack, carefully preserved for the celebration came to hand and helped to give the real Christmas feeling.

The cannonade on this part of the front ceased almost entirely at dusk. Far and near could be heard the rough soldier voices joining in the Christmas anthem, "Holy Night, Peaceful Night." Christmas carols were heard from the Russian lines, too, at one point, probably from the Polish soldiers, as the Russian Christmas is thirteen days later.

GRASS FED STEEP IS HEAVY

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Jan. 3.—(Special.)—A 4-year-old steer, which is expected to break the Wyoming record for weight, has been located by State Veterinarian B. F. Davis on Tom Sner's ranch at Sun, fifty miles from Casper. The animal, which never has been hay or grain, having subsisted entirely on grass, weighs 2,200 pounds. He is to be fed and the state veterinarian believes his weight can be increased to 2,800 pounds. That weight at present market quotations would make the animal worth \$300. The steer is a son of a mother which has borne sixteen calves, only one of which was a heifer.

German Soldiers See Victory Before Them

LONDON, Jan. 3.—While some of the German prisoners appear gloomy and criticize their leaders, this is no fair indication of the sentiments of their fighting troops. So says a British official eyewitness at the front in a dispatch dated December 31, adding: "Neither the pinch of real want, nor the lack of men and material of war has yet been felt by the Germans, nor has the consciousness of defeat been brought home to them. They believe that Russia has suffered decisive defeat; that England is decadent and France exhausted and ready to make peace. They are conscious, however, that the war will last much longer than at first expected."

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Little Human Interest Stories of the Big World War Now Raging

Pray God to Smite You. LONDON, Jan. 3.—By request King George tomorrow will be observed as a day of intercession and special prayers for the success of the allied arms will be offered in every church and chapel of all creeds and religions in the kingdom.

Big Order for Shells. PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 3.—A local manufacturing company today received from a Washington corporation orders for 152,000 shrapnel shells, 100,000 of them of large caliber. Three hundred men will begin work on Monday morning filling the order at a cost of \$10,000. The shells are to be shipped to Washington. What becomes of them afterward the manufacturer does not know.

Plan to Resist Invaders. LONDON, Jan. 3.—Stimulated by the expectation that Germany would probably some day attempt a landing on the east coast of England, Yorkshire is making special preparations to resist the invaders by enrolling a corps of civil guards and volunteers whose chief purposes will be to fill and in raising by subscription funds with which to provide uniforms, arms and equipment.

Twenty-seven Corps Flight Russ. LONDON, Jan. 3.—A Petrograd dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says: "It is officially estimated that twenty-seven German army corps are operating against Russia. Four hundred thousand Germans and Austrians have already been taken prisoners and their killed and wounded and three or four times heavier."

No Peace Without Victory. BERLIN, Jan. 3.—The Hague to London.—Emperor William, addressing the correspondents, said, among other things: "I hope you will be able in the new year to report many good things. We shall not lay down our arms until we have gained a complete victory."

UNCLE SAM ASKS FOR INFORMATION

America Wants to Know English Nation's Stand Upon Naval Stores.

PLEASED BY SHIP'S RELEASE

Communication Said to Be First Protest on Specific Articles Listed as Absolute Contraband.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—While no word came from Ambassador Page today as to the character of the reply which Great Britain will make to the American note of protest concerning interference with American trade, there were several developments in the general shipping situation.

The United States asked Great Britain for information as to how the latter's statement early in November, that naval stores, including rosin, camphor and turpentine, would be recognized in non-contraband, will be reconciled in actual practice with the notification from the British foreign office of a week ago, saying these products now are absolute contraband. Information is sought as to how cargoes now en route are to be affected, and whether rosinous products are included in the classification.

Italian Ambassador Informed. The Italian ambassador informed the State department that while statistics would make it appear that extraordinary amounts of copper shipped from the United States to Italy might be for neutral purposes, the fact of the matter was that as Germany needed its own copper, Italy could no longer import from the countries immediately to the north of it, but must seek the metal in the American markets.

Much gratification was manifested at the State department because of the release by Great Britain of the oil tank Magnifier Tiffin and Nagaspetite and the freighter George L. Hawley, which had been held at Falmouth since November 28. The case of the Brindilla, originally detained at Halifax and reentered on its return journey from Egypt and taken to a French port, is looked upon as likely to produce complications.

Should the question of change of registry be raised, a precedent may be set for while Great Britain has recognized the transfers when of a bona fide nature, the attitude of France has never been explicitly declared.

The communication which the State department is in receipt of concerning the naval stores is said to be the first protest on specific articles listed by Great Britain as absolute contraband. In the American note of protest it was stated that, while the United States objected to some of the conditions made, the discussion of them would be reserved until another time.

Naval Stores Protest. The protest concerning naval stores was communicated today to the governors and senators of several southern states. Rosin and turpentine had been intended for ball bearings with cotton cargoes and the British government is not prepared to regard cargoes so made up would not be regarded as contraband. The State department had no sooner sent notification to this effect to shippers than the British foreign office published its new list.

Redfield's Warning. To prevent the recurrence of charges that American shippers conceal copper and contraband articles in cotton and other non-contraband cargoes, the following formal notice, supplementary to President Wilson's warning of last week, was issued today by Secretary Redfield of the Department of Commerce:

The attention of shippers of goods to neutral countries is called to the importance of the most complete and accurate. It is essential also to avoid mixing contraband goods in cargoes otherwise lawful. It is alleged that some American consignees have omitted certain contraband goods; also that efforts have been made to conceal contraband articles, or to alter their appearance so that they will be allowed to pass.

A single case of the kind is enough to embarrass all American commerce to neutral countries by throwing doubt on the neutrality of our cargoes, thus making it impossible to delay through examining cargoes that otherwise would be allowed.

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U. S. PASSPORTS FOR TEUTON RESERVISTS

Alleged Plot of Germans to Furnish Soldiers with Papers to Cross Sea Disclosed.

FOUR TAKEN OFF OF STEAMER

Prominent New York Lawyer and Politician Arrested in Philadelphia, Most Important of All.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Through a series of arrests in this city and one in Philadelphia there was brought to light tonight what the Department of Justice alleges was a well organized conspiracy to enable German army officers and reservists to return to Germany on fraudulently-obtained American passports.

Most important of the arrests, in the belief of government officials, is the one made in Philadelphia, the prisoner there being Maurice Delches, prominent as a lawyer and politician in this city. It was alleged that Delches was active in advising reservists in connection with procuring the passports.

Active in Politics. Mr. Delches has been active in democratic politics as a tax or county register on the Tammany ticket at the last city election. He will be brought here, it was announced tonight, on Monday, and arraigned before United States Commissioner Houghton. That still more important developments might follow, however, was intimated by government authorities as it was said that others in high position were associated with the plot.

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Heavy Fire Loss Caused by Stub Of a Cigarette

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Two fires today caused more than \$1,000,000 damage in Philadelphia and Camden. Trains of the New York division of the Pennsylvania railroad were held up for more than an hour and a half by the flames, which destroyed the lumber yard of the Charles F. Cate company and seven-ton dwellings on Glenwood avenue in North Philadelphia, while traffic on the Philadelphia Reading railroad from Camden, N. J., was discontinued by a fire which destroyed its station there and damaged the lumber yard of C. B. Cole and the John Dialogue shipbuilding plant.

Four firemen were injured at the Camden fire, while nearly half a hundred were overcome by the heat and smoke from the flames in this city. The origin of the fire in North Philadelphia is unknown. Flames were discovered shortly after 1 o'clock in the lumber yard, which occupies three and a half acres. So rapidly did the flames spread that one of the fire engines which had been attached to a nearby water plug was attacked and partly consumed. Twenty-one fire companies were engaged there, while four others went to the assistance of the Camden department.

A cigarette thrown in some waste in the corner of the waiting room is believed to have caused the fire in the Camden railroad station. Four parlor cars and twenty-one passenger coaches were destroyed. The loss to the Reading railroad is estimated at \$100,000; C. B. Cole's loss, \$150,000, and the Dialogue shipyard's, \$5,000.

Will Ask T. R. if He Cares to Talk About The Colombia Treaty

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—President Wilson took counsel with several leaders of the senate today in an effort to hasten the administration's legislative program for the session. He is anxious that it shall be further advanced before he leaves next Thursday to speak at Indianapolis.

Father Judge Says Call Indignation Meeting on Mexico

The New York Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register calls approving editorial attention to a stirring letter written by Father Patrick Judge of Omaha regarding the atrocities committed against the Catholics in Mexico; Father Judge suggests calling "indignation" meetings throughout the length and breadth of the land to "manifest our wrongs before the world, to compel a hearing before the bar of public reason, and to focus its attention upon the weakness, if not the wickedness" of the policy of the administration at Washington.

Preacher Charged With a Statutory Crime; Life in Peril

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