

RAID REGARDED AS FOR MORAL EFFECT Vulnerability of English Coast, However, Emphasized by German Exploit. MILITARY VALUE LACKING

Possibility That Submarines Had Gathered to Attack British Vessels Also Considered in Comment by Experts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Official and diplomatic Washington was stirred today by the news of the bombardment by German cruisers off the east coast of England.

The actual attacks on British coast towns, accomplishing even in a small way the long-talked-of descent of the German navy on the English coast, developed much discussion among naval experts and tacticians.

Hypothetical Situation Discussed. While Government officials made no formal comment, the bombardment was discussed in Congressional as well as in executive quarters, all the naval events abroad have been with particular application to hypothetical situations in which American defenses might be involved.

The consensus of opinion among naval men was that the raid by the German cruisers was for moral effect and did not screen the fact as a real, pure and simple, for the moral effect to be produced on England.

Fleet Expected to Help. On the other hand, experts thought any sustained attack on the English coast would require many more ships than were engaged today and by the time any effort was made to land an expeditionary force the English fleet could be brought into action.

As reported there were only four German cruisers and they bombarded three towns on the east coast of England within a range of about 50 miles. Moral Effect Sole Desire. "Since no one of these towns contains anything which is of military value to the English, the thing can be considered from the point of view as a raid, and simple, for the moral effect to be produced on England.

No military value can be attached to the raid, insofar as invasion is concerned. The number of ships employed would be useless for invasion purposes unless there were troopships back of them, and it is hardly conceivable that Germany would make such a raid without larger and stronger vessels to protect the troopships. While this can be considered only as a raid, back of it may be the gathering of submarines attending the German cruisers to take advantage of any concentration of British forces sent to head off the raid.

When the Germans are ready to invade England they will do it after a serious naval action in which major vessels take part. No other military movement is conceivable which will attain results.

Hobson Suggests "Decoy." Representative Hobson, of Alabama, one of the naval experts of the House, expressed the opinion that the German attack on the northeast coast of England was in the nature of a feint. "Unless the attack by German naval forces on the English coast developed further it would appear to be in the nature of a decoy," Mr. Hobson said.

Evidently, in addition to the moral effect to be gained by the impression created in the mind of the British public by the attack it has for its purpose the drawing away of the British fleet from its present position in order to lay it open to attacks by submarines.

Data gathered today in official quarters revealed that the east coast of England, except for the protection which the fleet has, probably is vulnerable at several points. No estimate could be given as to the exact strength of the east coast defenses, nor any assurance that there were no hidden defenses unknown to the outside world. From what knowledge they have, however, officials were inclined to the opinion that the coast fortifications and batteries were of secondary importance in the English scheme of coastal protection to the dreadnoughts, cruisers, destroyers and submarines moving about in the waters of the North Sea.

FORTS AT HARTLEPOOL REPLY Pieces of Shell From Broadside Found All Over Towns. HARTLEPOOL, Eng., Dec. 16, via London.—The two towns known as the Hartlepoles were subjected to a 25-minute bombardment today from the German warships, estimated to aggregate from two to six, which were believed to be seen only through the thick fog which enveloped the sea.

Soon after the bombardment German shells fell in the town of the forts at the mouth of the river, and while they apparently did no damage to the raiders they succeeded in driving them out. Pieces of shell were found all over Hartlepool and West Hartlepool. As the ships were wheeling around and firing broadsides, every section suffered.

Many more persons were wounded than killed. Women and children suffered equally with the men. The bombardment, coming early in the morning and without the slightest warning, prevented the people seeking safety and they flocked into the streets.

AIRMEN RAIDING GERMANY Attacks Are Made Daily in Baden and Wurtemberg, Says Report. GENEVA, Switzerland, Dec. 16, via Paris.—French and English aerial excursions are almost of daily occurrence across Alsace into Baden and Wurtemberg, the object of the aviators being chiefly the destruction of the railroad lines and stations in order to prevent troops from reaching the Alsace-Lorraine frontier.

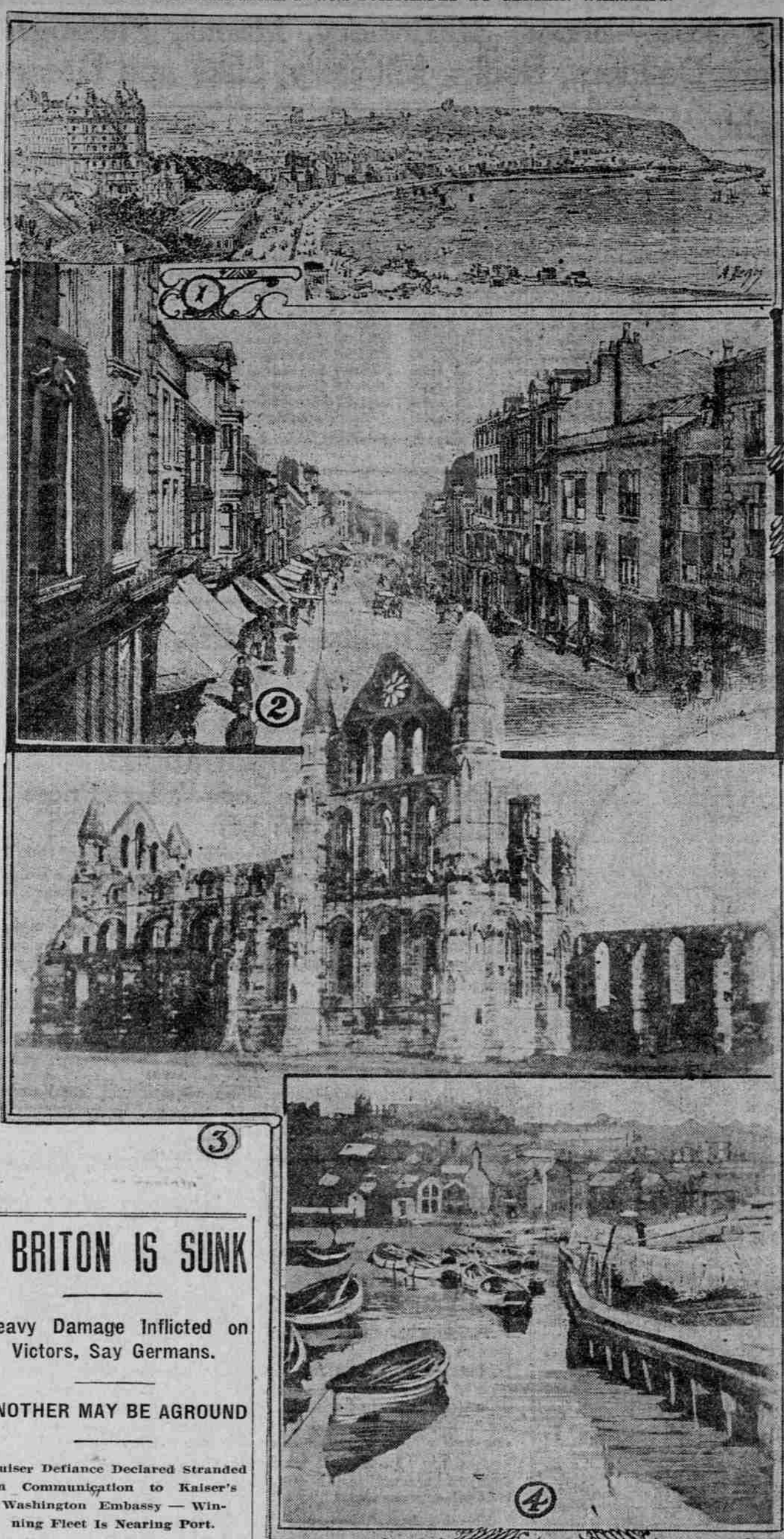
Yesterday two aviators, reported to be Englishmen, flew over Zwickau, on Lake Constance, and caused excitement at Pfederslohafen, the headquarters of the Zeppelin balloon works. It was more of a reconnaissance than anything else. No bombs were dropped.

A German report says that two French aviators who had thrown bombs on Fribourg for a third time and also on Neu-Breisach, causing much damage, were brought down near Colmar last Sunday. Both men were killed and their machines smashed. A third aviator escaped.

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SCENES IN ENGLISH TOWNS BOMBARDED BY GERMAN WARSHIPS.



(1) GENERAL VIEW OF SCARBOROUGH. (2) STREET SCENE IN SCARBOROUGH. (3) ABBEY AT WHITBY. (4) WHITBY HARBOR.

BRITON IS SUNK Heavy Damage Inflicted on Victors, Say Germans. ANOTHER MAY BE AGROUND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Dispatches to the German embassy today from the German Minister at Santiago, Chile, announced that the British fleet which sank the cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig off the Falkland Islands recently was badly damaged and that one of the British ships apparently was sunk.

A statement issued tonight at the embassy said: "According to information received by the German embassy from Chile, the battle off the Falkland Islands lasted from 9 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock in the evening.

On the British side, the Invincible, Indefatigable, Canopus, Carnarvon, Cornwall, Kent, Glasgow and Bristol, were engaged; many German officers and men were saved, but lack of boats prevented the number from being larger. The British cruiser Defense did not take part and has been seen aground at Port Stanley.

Only seven English cruisers left the scene of battle, so that one must have been sunk. The others were badly damaged."

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Dec. 16.—It is announced that the British fleet which recently defeated the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig and Nurnburg off the Falkland Islands will arrive here Sunday.

The German survivors of the battle will not be landed. "As an example of the economic strength of Germany, the case of the savings bank at Wilmsdorf, a suburb of Berlin, is cited. The deposits in this bank amounted to 8,500,000 marks (\$2,125,000) in December, 1914, against 7,100,000 marks (\$1,775,000) in December, 1913, although 1,300,000 marks (\$325,000) were withdrawn for subscriptions to the war loan.

Geneva reports that a rival of the Khedive of Egypt has been appointed by England, and he declares he will accept the office under condition that all the great powers are agreeable to him.

LEIPZIG VICTIM REPORTS FAREWELL EXPLOIT OF GERMAN CRUISER DESCRIBED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.—The farewell exploit of the German cruiser Leipzig, now at the bottom of the Atlantic, was told today by E. L. Rattle, third officer of the British freighter Bankfield, the last prize the Leipzig is known to have captured. Rattle arrived today from Callao on the British steamship Mexico City.

While off the coast of Ecuador in September Captain Ingham, of the Bankfield, sighted smoke on the horizon and put on full steam. The Leipzig had sighted him, however, and came racing after at a speed that soon overtook him. He refused to lie to at the signal, but a shell through his funnel brought obedience.

Three launches filled with armed marines were put off from the cruiser and carried back the Bankfield's crew. They were permitted to take with them their clothing, but no money or jewelry.

Five shells sank the Bankfield with celerity and her crew watched her go down by the stern. They were later transferred to the German merchantman Marie and landed at Callao.

HAVRE SHIPPING WARNED Mysterious Buoys, With Unknown Purpose, Adrift in Channel. HAVRE, Dec. 5.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Following the sinking of vessels by German submarines, supposed to be three in number, just outside the harbor of Havre, the Minister of Marine has issued a warning to navigators against mysterious buoys of differing forms that are drifting about the channel. These buoys are of various types, bearing flags, lamps and torches. The Minister does not say what their object is thought

to be. He requests captains of merchant or fishing boats to report them when sighted. A French and English flotilla of 15 destroyers is patrolling the channel to protect vessels entering and leaving Havre and a battery of four field guns and several machine guns has been mounted on the fashionable drive along the sea front of the city. Traffic is normal.

Albanian Tribesmen Attack Servia. AMSTERDAM, Dec. 16 (via London).—A dispatch from Constantinople to the Telegraf says the tribes in North-

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ern Albania have declared war on Servia. the Russian capital to Reuter's Telegram Company.

Petrograd Water Restored. LONDON, Dec. 16.—Petrograd's water supply, reported yesterday to have been cut off, owing to the blocking of the Neva River conduits by ice, has been restored, according to a telegram from

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