

VON SPEE'S FLEET CAUGHT UNAWARES

Lone Briton First Engaged Is Soon Reinforced by Seven Other Warships.

ONE CREW SINKS CHEERING

Scharnhorst Men, Assembled in Formation on Deck of Doomed Vessel, Refuse to Surrender, and Coilers Also Scorn Offer.

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 17.—The German cruisers sent to the bottom off the Falkland Islands December 8 apparently were taken unawares by the British at a time when neither side was expecting an encounter. The first detailed accounts of the battle, which reached here today from Puerto Gallegos, Patagonia, say the vessels were on their way to seize the Falkland Islands, British possessions, when they came unexpectedly upon a lone British warship. The other members of the British fleet were taking on supplies from neighboring islands at the time. Before the Germans were aware of the strength of their opponents, these ships closed in on them and the fate of Admiral Von Spee's squadron was soon sealed.

The story of the battle was told by passengers on the British steamship Oriskany, which arrived at Punta Arenas from Callao, Chile. They say the Germans fought bravely to the end, even the coilers refusing to surrender. Losses of the British were placed at eight men.

One Briton First Engaged. It was a formidable British squadron which faced the Germans. Included in it were the battleship Canopus, the battle cruisers Invincible and Inflexible, and the cruisers Kent, Cornwall, Carnarvon, Bristol and Glasgow. It far outnumbered in strength the German squadron, consisting of the five cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig, Nürnberg and Dresden.

The British squadron arrived at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, on December 7, to take on supplies. The next morning the Canopus, guarding the entrance to the port, sighted a hostile warship. Four others quickly came into view and were recognized as the squadron of Admiral von Spee. The German warships had left the Chilean islands of Juan Fernandez November 15, for the Falkland Islands, to take possession of the islands and destroy the wireless station.

Only the Canopus was visible at first to the Germans, who came straight at her. The Canopus opened fire and the other British warships rushed to her assistance.

The Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig formed in battle line. The Nürnberg and Dresden, however, dropped back from the firing line. The British warships concentrated their fire on the Scharnhorst, Admiral von Spee's flagship.

Crew Goes Down Cheering. When it became evident that she was doomed, the crew assembled on the forward deck. The Scharnhorst refused to surrender and, after an hour's fighting, plunged beneath the waves. The crew preserved its formation as the ship went down, and cheered as the waters closed above them.

The Glasgow engaged the Leipzig and sank her. Gneisenau went down 80 miles from Port Stanley. The Nürnberg attempted to escape, but after a pursuit of ten hours was sunk. The Carnarvon pursued the Dresden but was not swift enough to overhaul her, and the German warship escaped. After the battle the British picked up 194 Germans, including a few officers. Of these survivors 100 were from the crews of the two German coilers. An opportunity was offered to the captives, but it was refused, and they were sunk.

The cruiser Cornwall was damaged slightly below the waterline. None of the other warships was damaged. Funeral services were held December 10 for the eight sailors who were killed, in the presence of the commanders and crews of the squadron. The British Admiralty report of the battle said only seven men of the British squadron lost their lives.

ALLIES GAIN IN BELGIUM

GERMAN TRENCHES OCCUPIED AT POINT OF BAYONET.

French Official Report Says Artillery Has Done Effective Work in Vicinity of Tracy-le-Val.

PARIS, Dec. 17.—The following official communication was issued by the War Office tonight:

In Belgium our troops have gained ground to the east of the road between Ypres and Maunin, and also to the south and southeast of Bixchoote.

We have debouched to the northeast of Arras and have reached the first houses of St. Laurent Blangy.

Appreciable progress has been made at Ouliers-Boiselle, Mammet and Maricourt in the region of Espaume and Peronne.

From the Somme to the Voges there is nothing to report.

The earlier official reports said: "Between the sea and the Lys we have occupied several German trenches at the point of the bayonet, consolidated our position at Lombaertzyde and St. Georges, and organized the territory taken from the enemy to the west of Gheluvelt."

"We have made progress at some points in the region of Vermelles.

"There has been no infantry action along the remainder of the front, but we report very effective shooting on the part of our heavy artillery in the environs of Tracy-le-Val, on the Argonne and in Champagne, as well as in the Argonne and in the region of Verdun.

"In Lorraine and in Alsace there is nothing to report."

Douglas Auditing Bill Refused.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Alleging that the bill was exorbitant, the County Court yesterday refused the claim for \$576 submitted by W. E. McKenzie & Son for auditing the books of Douglas County. One reason advanced by the court is the fact that the experts neglected to file a satisfactory report. In one office the experts claimed to have found an "apparent" shortage, but no figures were mentioned.

\$10,000 Alienation Suit Filed.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—After a deliberation of less than 15 minutes, a jury in the Circuit Court late today brought in a verdict for the defendant in the case of William McLean vs. Gus Linbloom. McLean brought suit to recover \$10,000 damages. He charged that the defendant had alienated the affections of his wife.

BRITISH FLEET COMMANDER WHO DESTROYED GERMAN FLEET IN SOUTH ATLANTIC.



ADMIRAL SIR FREDERICK CHARLES DOVETON STURDEE, K. C. B.

GALE WHIPS COAST

Southern California Resorts Heavily Damaged.

COMBERS WRECK HOUSES

Streets of Long Beach Front Are Flooded and Spray Is Sent Over 60-Foot Buildings—Would Be Rescuer Drowned.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 17.—Heavy seas whipped up by a 40-mile southeaster that swept the southern coast last night and early today, wrought damage amounting to more than \$100,000 at Long Beach and at Huenehue. John Caspino, a fisherman, was washed off the launch Roma, one of the vessels sent out to search for a disabled motorboat, which was blown out to sea with six members of the family of J. H. Blake, of Rodondo. The Blake, however, were saved by another vessel.

At Long Beach the gale rolled up the highest seas seen at that point this year. Breakers dashed into the strand, tearing up bulkheads and cement walks, wrecking several residences close to the waterfront, flooding streets and sending spray high over 60-foot buildings back of the promenade.

The greatest damage was sustained in the Seaside park and Alamitos Bay districts. Huge waves battered down houses, marooned several families in their homes and flooded streets and streetcar tracks to depths of from one to three feet. Several factories and two schools were among the buildings flooded, and workmen and students took a compulsory holiday.

At Huenehue the old wharf, at which vessels moored to take on cargoes of Ventura County beans was almost wrecked. A section of it, 1100 feet in length, was smashed, and the debris hurled on the beach. The damage here is estimated at \$50,000.

MONEY MACHINE FIZZLES

Saloonman Parts With Savings for Device to Print Currency.

MOVING PICTURES SHOW DESTRUCTION OF BELGIAN CITIES.

The destruction of the cities of Belgium from Alost to Antwerp is shown with startling effect in the motion pictures, "On Belgian Battlefields," which is showing at the Hellig Theater this week under the auspices of the Oregonian. The films are exclusive, being the only ones taken during the campaign and were secured through arrangements with the Chicago Tribune.

Half the receipts from the sale of these films will go to the Belgian Red Cross fund and the Oregonian will turn over its profits to the Christmas relief fund of the Associated Charities.

The admission price is 25 cents and the tickets are on sale at the box office of the Hellig or the office of the Oregonian.

The only real war pictures that have yet been shown, is the verdict of a military authority, given when they were produced in Chicago recently.

The films will be shown this afternoon but not tonight.

HARBOR BILL, PARED DEEPLY, COMPLETE

Estimates of Army Engineers Finally Are Reduced by Nearly 20,000,000.

ALL BIG PROJECTS CUT

Measure as Agreed To Omits Legislative Effort to Alter Method of Making Appropriations. Reforms Not Made.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The annual river and harbor appropriation bill, carrying \$34,138,580 for waterway improvements throughout the country, was completed today by the House river and harbor committee. Estimates of the army engineers were reduced by nearly \$20,000,000 and the bill appropriates only for work on projects which have already been begun, and making no provision for new undertakings.

Following the defeat of the river and harbor bill at the last session of Congress and the appropriation of \$20,000,000 to maintain work on existing projects, the board of engineers submitted estimates aggregating \$35,000,000. These the committee, according to Chairman Sparkman, "pared to the bone."

Big Projects Reduced. All of the big improvement projects were involved in the effort to reduce the appropriations. The bill gives the Mississippi River \$6,927,000 out of \$19,500,000 recommended; the Ohio \$5,884,000 out of the \$9,884,000 recommended; the Hudson \$1,500,000 out of the \$3,470,000 recommended; the Tennessee \$222,000 out of the \$3,000,000 recommended; the Columbia \$1,385,000 out of the \$2,500,000 recommended; the Missouri \$1,350,000 out of the \$2,500,000 recommended. The Delaware River receives the full estimate, a cash appropriation of \$1,000,000.

As agreed to by the committee, the measure carries no legislative proposal to alter the present method of making appropriations for waterway improvements. No action was taken on the various reform plans recently suggested, including the proposal of Senator Newlands, which has at least the partial indorsement of the Administration, for the establishment of a commission to control all river and harbor expenditures.

New Legislation Sacrificed. Representative Sparkman said no new legislation was considered because the conferring of work under pressure in order to meet the general plan for speeding up the appropriation bill to assure the completion of the legislative program before the expiration of the present Congress. He said that numerous legislative proposals, including the Newlands plan, were pending before the Senate committee, which will consider the bill after it leaves the House and that any action would come from the Senate side of the Capitol.

Among the appropriations for the larger projects were the following: Missouri River, mouth to Kansas City, \$1,200,000.

Northwest Gets Allowance. Columbia River, Celilo Falls to the mouth of the Snake River, \$45,000; The Dalles to Celilo Falls, \$50,000; at Cascades, \$10,000; Columbia and lower Willamette, below Portland, \$600,000; mouth of the Columbia, \$1,250,000.

Orange Coast Bay, below Nohalem Bay, \$115,175; Coquille River, \$75,000; Siuslaw River, \$117,500; Snake River, \$30,000; Willamette River, above Portland and Yamhill River, \$42,500.

Washington, Grays Harbor and Chehalis River, \$15,000; Waterway Puget Sound to Lakes Enlow and Washington, \$500; Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers, \$22,000; Puget Sound, \$25,000; Skagit River, \$7000.

The bill also carries an appropriation of \$250,000 for examinations, surveys and contingencies.

Falls City Accepts Street Work.

DALLAS, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The City Council at Falls City Monday night accepted the street improvement contract by W. B. Stevens, of that city, under a contract. The work was constructed during the past summer and was completed and ready to turn over to the city in September. Objections by property owners have caused the delay in the acceptance of the work.

Joseph Addison, the English essayist, used the pseudonym "Clio." When he wrote a masterpiece in the city he annotated it with a "C"; when in London, "L"; when in Rome, "R"; when he lived in Paris, "P"; when in his office, "O," the whole spelling Ohio.

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—Adv.

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