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FATE OF SERB ARMY MATTER OF FEW HOURS

Monastir in Perilous Position—Bulgarians Take Perlepe, Threatening Flank of Franco-British Forces—Fate of Babuna Pass Uncertain—Conflicting Reports.

LONDON, Nov. 17.—The fate of the Serbian army may be only a matter of hours. Monastir, in southwest Serbia, is reported to be in such a perilous position that the consular officials have departed from the city. From the various conflicting reports which have reached the public the following apparently may be deduced as facts:

The Bulgarians have taken Krusevo, and are six miles west of Perlepe. Thus the southern Serbian army and its Franco-British allies are confronted with the imminent peril of an outflanking movement. Tetovo is in the hands of the Bulgarians.

Threatened at Babuna The fate of the Serbians holding Babuna pass is more obscure. One report says that the pass has been forced. It seems certain that the defenders are at least threatened so seriously that their position soon may be untenable.

With Krusevo and Babuna in the hands of the invaders the fate of Perlepe would be sealed and the road to Monastir opened.

While the military situation becomes darker from the standpoint of the entente allies, the diplomatic phase of their Near Eastern venture is somewhat more favorable. Greece is giving some indications that she is seeking a solution of the problem which would be presented if the entente troops should take refuge in Grecian territory.

Threatening Greece It is clear that the entente powers are bringing considerable pressure to bear on Greece, not least of which is England's detention in home ports of a fleet of Greek merchantmen. Greek shipping is making enormous profits out of the war, and even a temporary check of its activities would mean a great loss.

Along the eastern front interest centers on the attempted re-crossing of the Sty, where the Austrians and Germans claim an important success. Petrograd reports merely admit Austro-German occupation of the village of Podgacze, about five miles from the river, and a slight advance east of that place. It is asserted the advantage gained by the Teutonic forces in this region is due to the arrival of reinforcements from other sections of the eastern front, and heavy artillery brought up by railroad. From the conflicting reports it may be seen that the east bank of the Sty is held by the Russians, while the battle for the crossings is still undecided.

Reports from the western front indicate that the military activities there are limited to rather general artillery exchanges.

WAR COUNCIL OF BRITAIN MEETING FRENCH CABINET

PARIS, Nov. 17.—The first meeting of the joint Anglo-French war council was held here this afternoon. Those taking part were Premier Asquith, A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty; David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, and Sir Edward Grey, secretary of foreign affairs of the British cabinet, while the French participants were Premier Briand, General Gallieni, minister of war; Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine, and General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief. The trip of Premier Asquith and his colleagues to Paris signifies the inauguration of the meetings of the allied war council of which the premier spoke in the house of commons on November 10. The fact that the premier is accompanied by naval and military advisors is an indication that wider cooperation of the staffs of the two nations also is about to begin.

RUMANIA WILL JOIN GERMANS SAYS EX-PREMIER

Carp Credited by Bucharest Newspaper That Balkan Nation Will Take Up Arms for Teutons in December—Nation Is Preparing for War by Seizing Materials Needed.

BUCHAREST, Nov. 12, via London, Nov. 17, 3:20 a. m. (delayed in transmission).—Former Premier Carp is credited by the newspaper Adeverul with the statement that Rumania will take up arms on the side of Germany in December. The prediction is made by M. Carp that as soon as established communications make it possible, Germany will make new offers to Rumania in the form of an ultimatum requiring a reply within forty-eight hours.

MILAN, Nov. 17.—A dispatch from Bucharest to the Corriere Della Sera says that the official journal there has published a decree authorizing the minister of war to requisition immediately all things and materials necessary to the national defense, the articles enumerated comprising metals, wearing apparel, medicines, cloth, machines for military supply factories, craft of all kinds for river traffic, railway material and combustibles. Tradesmen are required to declare what they possess of these things and also of other prime necessities.

This is taken, says the newspaper, as an indication that Rumania sees the impossibility of maintaining her neutrality much longer.

31 MINERS DEAD FROM EXPLOSION IN RAVENSDALE MINE

SEATTLE, Nov. 17.—Three bodies were recovered this morning from the Northwestern Improvement company's mine at Ravensdale, where thirty-one men were killed yesterday by a dust explosion. Twenty-five dead bodies are still in the mine and three men taken out unconscious last night have been revived.

The bodies recovered today were on a third level, near the main slope. The debris has been cleared away sufficiently to admit the rescuers into all the workings of the mine, and it is expected that all the bodies will be recovered this afternoon.

Timber and the top and sides of the gangways are down in an inextinguishable mass. Inasmuch as the air has been pronounced good, the work of recovering the bodies will be prosecuted over the fallen debris, only necessary timbering of a temporary character being done.

Some of the miners, and those about the surface when the explosion occurred, declare there were two distinct explosions. This might mean that gas was first fired and the dust explosion, of greater consequence, resulted from the first flash of flame.

FREIGHT CONGESTED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—Congestion of freight in and around New York continues to be so great as to cause shippers and transportation companies serious concern. It is attributed mainly to the rush of foodstuffs and war munitions for shipment to the belligerent nations. It was stated today that one railroad has upwards of seven thousand loaded cars blocked between Pittsburgh and this city and that several hundred freight cars with locomotive parts and railway equipment for Russia are included in the blockade. The president of one of the large eastern railroads declared that hundreds of freight cars with shipments for Russia were sent from Pittsburgh to Seattle, an unusual course. Other shipments were sent to Montreal in order to avoid New York.

AUSTRIA DENIES ITALIAN VERSION OF ANCONA LOSS

Story That Submarine Fired on Vessel After It Stopped or That Boats Were Sunk Pronounced False—Greatest Panic Prevailed Upon the Doomed Ship.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—An official communication from Austria-Hungary, forwarded to Secretary Lansing today by American Ambassador Penfield, denies categorically that any shots were fired at the Italian liner Ancona after she came to a stop, or that the Austrian submarine which torpedoed her shelled her life boats, as has been charged.

The text of the communication from the Vienna foreign office as given out by the state department follows:

Says Ancona Fled "Submarine fired warning shots across bow of steamer, whereupon latter fled at full speed. She thus carried out instructions officially given all Italian steamers at beginning of war to attempt escape upon being held up by submarines or to ram, according to the position of the latter. "Escaping steamer pursued and fired upon by submarine, but did not stop until receiving several hits. Forty five minutes given passengers and crew to leave ship on which greatest panic reigned. Only a portion of boats lowered which were occupied by members of ship's crew who pulled hurriedly away. Great portion of boats which would apparently have sufficed for rescue all hands, were not occupied.

Blame Anconas Crew "After about fifty minutes submarine submerged on account rapidly approaching vessel, torpedoed Ancona which did not sink until further lapse of forty five minutes. If many passengers lost lives, blame rests entirely with crew, because instead of stopping upon warning shot, fled and compelled submarine to fire and because crew endeavored to save only themselves and not passengers, for which there was ample time and means.

"Story that submarine fired upon loaded boats and people in water is malicious fabrication, for reason ammunition was too valuable for submarine if for no other reason. No other shot fired after vessel stopped."

WILSON CONFERS WITH JERSEY LEADERS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—To smooth out difficulties in the way of party success in New Jersey was the object of a conference at the white house today between President Wilson and democratic leaders of that state, including among others Governor Fielder.

Governor Fielder has announced that he would not be a candidate for the United States senate. His decision, he said, was irrevocable. Other participants in the conference included State Chairman Grosceup and Thomas H. Birch, United States minister to Portugal, who is in this country on a vacation.

GERMAN SUBMARINE SUNK ITALIAN VESSEL

PARIS, Nov. 17.—Investigation by the Italian government has disclosed that the submarine which torpedoed the steamer Firenze was a German, says the Rome correspondent of the Journal. Passengers and crew of the steamer, all of whom were saved, are said to agree that the sailors aboard the submarine wore German uniforms and also that the German colors were hoisted first although the Austrian flag was substituted later. If the Firenze an Italian steamer, was sunk by a German submarine, it might be regarded by Italy as an act of war. There has as yet been no declaration of hostilities between Italy and Germany.

ASKED CLEMENCY FOR MURDERER HILLSTROM



Samuel Goppers, president of American Federation of Labor, asked clemency for murderer Hillstrom.

BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIP ANGELIA SUNK. 85 LOSE LIVES

LONDON, Nov. 17.—The British hospital ship Anglia was sunk by a mine in the English channel today. Three hundred men were saved out of a total of 385.

A statement issued by the official press bureau gave the news of the disaster. It said that of the 13 officers and 372 men on board the Anglia, 300 had been saved.

The Anglia was a merchantman which was taken over by the British admiralty after the war began and refitted as a hospital ship. She was commissioned in August of last year. There are four British steamships named Anglia. The one converted to a hospital ship probably is the former London and Northwestern Railway company steamer of 1862 tons gross. She was 290 feet long and was built in 1910 at Dunbarton. At the time she was commissioned, the Anglia was in charge of Commander Oscar V. De Satge, retired.

JAPS FEASTING OVER CORONATION

KIOTO, Nov. 17.—The people of the empire are feasting and rejoicing over the coronation to an extent hitherto unknown in the history of Japan. The streets of Kioto last night were filled with paraders. The scenes resembled those witnessed during the coronations at New Orleans, Paris and Nice, except that they had an Oriental setting.

Foreigners were struck with the friendly spirit displayed by the crowds. In spite of the gaiety there were no signs of public intoxication and no disorders. Count Okuma, the aged premier, is suffering under the strain of the long program, but pluckily continues to take his part.

The officers of the United States cruiser Saratoga, who were not present at the third coronation feast held tonight, were entertained by the mayor or Kobe at a Japanese dinner.

FRENCH TRYING TO BUY HAND GRENADES

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 17.—Agents of the French government have been trying for several days to place an order here for 9,000,000 hand grenades, but it was said by steel men today that they have met with little success. Only the shells were wanted, as they were to be loaded in France, but manufacturers who have never made that sort of thing did not care to experiment. More foreign agents are now in the Pittsburg district trying to buy steel products than at any previous time.

WILSON AGAIN ASKS CLEMENCY FOR HILLSTROM

President for Second Time Requests Governor Spry of Utah to Reconsider Case of I. W. W. Leader Sentenced to Be Shot Friday for Double Murder—Governor Surprised.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—President Wilson today urged Governor Spry of Utah, to reconsider the case of Joseph Hillstrom, a Swedish citizen, sentenced to death next Friday for murder.

The president sent to Governor Spry the following telegram: "With unaffected hesitation, but with a very earnest conviction of the importance of the case, I again venture to urge upon your excellency the justice and advisability of a thorough re-consideration of the case of Joseph Hillstrom."

No New Evidence Hillstrom is an I. W. W. worker, in whose behalf President Wilson appealed to Governor Spry at the request of the Swedish minister several weeks ago on the ground that Hillstrom had not had a fair trial. The prisoner was given a respite but eventually was sentenced. A few days ago Mrs. J. S. Cram and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn of New York again urged the president to ask Governor Spry to intervene. The American Federation of Labor in convention at San Francisco also asked clemency for Hillstrom.

Governor Surprised SALT LAKE CITY, Nov. 17.—President Wilson's request for reconsideration of the case of Joseph Hillstrom was received by Governor Spry at noon. The governor had not indicated the nature of his answer at 2 o'clock, but it is expected the answer will be forwarded before the close of the day. There is considerable local speculation as to what, if any, additional evidence in the case has been laid before the president. The governor and the board of pardons have had no new evidence since the case was first heard by the board. Pierce, Critchlow and Barrette, a firm of Salt Lake attorneys, who were retained recently by W. A. F. Ekingren, the Swedish minister, to investigate the case have examined the records and forwarded their report to Mr. Ekingren, but decline to indicate its nature or to discuss it in any manner.

VILLA ON RUN IN NORTHERN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Caravan forces in northern Mexico today's war dispatches show, have their campaign against the retreating Villa cohorts in full swing. Villa himself was reported near Magdalena, General Cardenas with 2000 troops has left Naco to begin the engagement with Villa and General Obregon, the Carranza commander-in-chief, is expected to leave today with several thousand reinforcements.

BRITISH CABINET VISITING FRANCE

LONDON, Nov. 17.—Official announcement was made that Premier Asquith, Foreign Secretary Grey, David Lloyd-George, minister of munitions, and A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, have arrived in Paris for consultation with the French government.

12,000 ARABS JOIN BRITISH IN PERSIA

LONDON, Nov. 17.—According to reports from German sources, forwarded from The Hague by the Central News, 12,000 Arabs have joined with the British army in Mesopotamia. This army is said to have approached within a few miles of Bagdad.

MEDFORD MEN PLAN COMPANY TO GROW BEETS

Organization of Business Men Forming to Engage in Beet Culture on Large Scale—Over \$10,000 Subscribed First Day—Colonel Ray Offers Land and Finance Renters.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—Tell manager beet sugar campaign to have meeting bankers and get them to agree to loan each person planting beets the amount of labor bill, secured by lien on crop, then call meeting land-owners who have not signed up and present bankers' proposition. This will undoubtedly give more than required acreage. I will make above proposition to tenants on my land suitable for growing beets. Your county needs payroll. If you let this opportunity slip by the land-owners are the ones to blame. FRANK H. RAY.

The above message from Colonel Frank H. Ray was received today. Colonel Ray has offered to sign up all land he owns suitable for beet culture, 140 acres of which has been accepted, and agreed to finance the growing for renters. It will not be necessary for the local land's to finance the beet growers, as President Nibley of the Oregon-Utah Sugar company has set aside \$400,000 for this purpose, which will be available as needed during the season.

Business men of Medford, to show their faith in the venture, are raising a \$20,000 fund to form a company to engage in beet culture. Over half of this amount has already been subscribed, and every public-spirited citizen is requested to participate. The importance of securing the enterprise is universally admitted by everyone except the farmer.

W. H. Gore has returned from Portland and reports that the sugar factory has aroused keen interest in the metropolis, particularly at the stockyards, where it is predicted that stock raising will be greatly stimulated in this section by the factory. Bankers and business men he talked with from Idaho told him that sugar beets had created prosperity there and stimulated all lines of business. He is more than ever convinced that no effort should be overlooked to secure the factory.

This is the last week of the campaign, and unless more acreage is secured than is now signing up, the project will be lost to southern Oregon.

ITALY TO SEND TROOPS TO HELP ALLIES IN SERBIA

ROME, via Paris, Nov. 16 (delayed in transmission).—Italy, according to a statement obtained from a reliable source, will in the end join the entente allies at Saloniki. The supposed indiscretions concerning an Italian expedition to Albania, it is said, are purposely being allowed to circulate in order to divert attention from Italy's real object. Preparations are in progress to send troops to Saloniki and it is said now that the Italian general staff is only waiting for an opportune moment to detach the necessary force. These troops, it is understood, will become available now that the Italians have obtained control of the plateau dominating Gorizia, and as the result of the advance through the Carso region and changed conditions due to the winter campaign.

THEODOR LESCHETITZKY, FAMOUS PIANIST, DEAD

BRESLEN, Nov. 17.—Theodor Leschetitzky, the famous teacher of the piano, is dead at the age of 85. Leschetitzky made his debut in Vienna in 1845.

