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In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements copy must reach this office not later than nine a.m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Fresh to strong southwesterly winds, generally fair and quite mild.

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DEFEAT OF GERMANS WAS MOST CRUSHING

CREW OF BULWARK HAD NO CHANCE FOR LIFE

Disaster to British Warship Was Akin to the Loss of the Royal George Years Ago—Eight Hundred of the Brave Went Down With the Ship—Was Lying in Sheerness Harbor at the Time—Crew at Breakfast When Explosion Occurred.

Sheerness, Eng., Nov. 26—Lying at anchor in Sheerness Harbor, one of the biggest naval bases in England, His Majesty's man-of-war Bulwark, a battleship of 15,000 tons displacement was blown to pieces by a mysterious explosion this morning. Wrapped in dense clouds of smoke and steam, the vessel sank in five minutes, carrying all to their death, but twelve men of the crew numbering between seven and eight hundred officers and men.

Officially the destruction of the battleship is regarded as having been due to an accidental explosion in her magazines and from causes as yet unknown.

Many eye witnesses have described the terrible moment in which the magnificent ship met her doom. Workmen on shore who were waiting to be relieved of the night shift, say they were looking casually at the shipping in the harbor and not observing anything in particular when a terrific flash shot up into the sky, immediately followed by clouds of smoke. For a few brief minutes this drifted seaward, and to the men's amazement not a vestige of the great battleship remained. So utterly staggering was the blow that the workmen, who had been dazed by the severity of the explosion for a few moments, even discredited their own senses and debated among themselves as to how many ships they had counted before the explosion.

OTHER SHIPS FEEL SHOCK.

At once the harbor was in commotion. On board all the ships the officers and men rushed on deck, some of them half stunned by the terrible explosion. I am told indeed, that on some of the vessels near, there was not a piece of glass or crockery left whole, and each plate glass in the port-holes being shattered and men on decks being hurled several yards and thrown down.

In a few moments boats were being lowered from the various warships and rescue boats soon steamed up from all directions. They came, however, on an almost fruitless errand. A warship cleared for action is so closely stripped of woodwork that there is nothing left to float and the vast mass of metal that had been a battleship a minute before had vanished almost as completely as though she never had figured on the naval list. Here and there were floating a few lucky men, although most of these were terribly injured. These with a number of mutilated dead bodies, were the only signs of the disaster.

As speedily as possible the living and dead were picked up and taken to other warships. A little later they were removed in boats to the Sheerness pier, where motor-boat ambulances from Chatham were ready to take them to the navy hospital. The living are said to number only twelve.

Over-night leave had been given a limited number of men from the Bulwark and these were returning down the Midway aboard a cutter-boat to rejoin the Bulwark when the disaster occurred. Another three minutes and they too, would have been engulfed as the liberty boat was actually steaming up to go alongside the Bulwark when the explosion occurred.

The liberty boat landed the survivors at Sheerness dock just before

noon. Four motor ambulances bearing the Red Cross arrived at the new dockyard in response to a summons for assistance. Into these the survivors landed here were placed and sent by road to the Royal Naval Hospital at Chatham. At the time of the disaster most of the men were below at breakfast and only the few on deck had the slightest chance of life.

HOLE HOUSES REELED.

No evil significance was attached to the explosion at first, accustomed as the people were to heavy gunfire. Not until two hours later was the truth known and even then the full extent of the disaster was not realized. The witnesses of the terrible occurrence say that the cloud that rose above the pillar of flame was white, such as comes from an explosion of cordite. It was such a complete disaster that nothing definite is known as to its immediate cause.

ALL OVER SOON.

A member of the crew of a collier lying near the Bulwark gives the following story:

"I was on deck when I heard a most tremendous explosion and at the same time I saw a sheet of red flame shoot up. Then there was a dense volume of black smoke and as that cleared away there was nothing, just a gap between the other warships. I rubbed my eyes and wondered for a moment whether there really had been a ship there. It must have been all over in one minute."

The explosion was heard far and wide. In Sittingbourne many people not only heard the explosion but saw a great sheet of flame.

"It was just like a wonderful sunset if one could have a sunset at that time and in that direction," said one man to me.

In peace time the complement of the Bulwark was rated at 750 officers and men, but in war the personnel of our ships has proved to be higher, rather than below the figure usually given in the reference book.

BET THAT WAR ENDS BY MARCH

New York—A herald cable from London says: The opinion at Lloyd's is that the change of the war being over by March is better than it was a week ago. Last week seventy-five guineas per cent was quoted for a policy under which the total loss would be paid in the event of the war not being over by that time. The rate fell yesterday to sixty guineas per cent.

CHRISTY MATHEWSON AT THE GAIETY.

A decidedly good week-end program is being shown at the popular Gaiety Theatre today. Christy Mathewson, the world famous baseball star, will appear in a special two-part feature, entitled "Love and Baseball." This feature in itself is a genuine novelty and shows Christy in his old-time form. A clever two-part Nestor photoplay, "She Was Only a Working Girl," and a special reel with August M. Carney as Alakli like will be shown, making in all a long and interesting program.

The Magnitude of Russian Victory in Poland Increased by Recent Despatches---Three German army Corps Reported to be Surrounded on all Sides In Region Near Stryrow

The Russians are Now Moving Steadily Forward---British Troops Have Pushed on to the Outskirts of Ostend Encountering Very Little Opposition---British Airman Drops Bomb on German Ammunition Train, Blowing it up

BRITISH NEAR OSTEND

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Nov. 27---A force of British troops has pushed as far as the outskirts of Ostend encountering only small detachments of the enemy.

A CRUSHING VICTORY

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Nov. 27---The Magnitude of the victory which has increased by each new report received at Petrograde, although the official statement of the Russian General staff reports that merely that the battle continued to develop advantageously to the Russians. The main Russian front has been pushed further along a line from Plock in the North through Kulno and Sierads to Czenstochowa in the South. driving the Germans before it at all points. Back of this general battle line in the region between Strykow and Brzeziny is a German force reported variously from one to three army corps, surrounded on all sides.

GERMANY EXPECTS HELP

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Copenhagen, Nov. 27---The Portuguese Parliament resolution to enter the war has not caused any considerable interest in Germany, which was sure that Portugal's English Ally some day would force her into the conflict. A much more interesting development is that in the Balkans much nearer the Orient. Circles in Berlin in close touch with official news expect that shortly new war declarations there will favor Germany and Austria.

BRITISH AIRMAN'S GOOD SHOT

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Nov. 27---The "Daily Chronicle" correspondent in Northern France says:---Wednesday about noon a tremendous explosion was heard and felt for miles along the Allies line. The source of the explosion apparently was behind the German line. Later it was learned that a British Naval Airman had dropped a bomb squarely on a German ammunition train which blew up.

GERMANS FEAR INVASION.

London, Nov. 26---An invasion by the Allies is feared by Germany, according to the Copenhagen Evening News, which reports that extensive preparations are being made to guard against such an eventuality. The News says it has learned from eye witnesses that the Germans are strengthening old fortresses in the lower Danish territory of Schleswig-Holstein, as well as a line of entrenchments called the Dannewerk along the northern side of the Kiel Canal. It is thus hoped to protect the canal against attacks from the north, for it is on the shores of Schleswig, according to these reports, that an invasion is feared.

All the German islands in the North Sea, it is said, are now closely guarded, and strongly fortified positions are being erected on the shores of Holstein and along the western side of the River Elbe.

A GREAT VICTORY

Petrograd, Nov. 25, via London---Reports reaching here concerning the magnitude of the defeat of the Germans to the west of Lodz, Russian Poland, which in some instances place the German losses as high as an entire army corps, appear, in a measure, to be confirmed by telegraphic despatches from Warsaw.

Forty-eight trains have been despatched from Warsaw to bring in the prisoners and wounded. This number of trains, made up of the maximum number of cars of the Russian wide gauge, would carry between 45,000 and 50,000 men, it is estimated here.

Military men here express the opinion that the reported defeat was partially due to the failure of the column of Germans from Wielun to defeat the Russians sent against it. Bad roads delayed this German column, it is reported, enabling the Russians to concentrate a sufficient force to repulse it and turn the flank of the main German column.

There is great jubilation in many circles here, officers expressing the conviction that the enemy has received a crushing blow, which is likely to prove decisive in the campaign in Poland.

GERMANS SURRENDERED

Petrograd, Nov. 25---The following official communication from the Russian general staff was given out here tonight:

"The fighting near Lodz still continues. The large German forces which on Nov. 20, broke into the region of Strykow, Brzeziny, Koluszki, Rzgow and Tuszyn (all these places are in the vicinity of Lodz) are pressed on every side by our troops, and are

now attempting, by a supreme effort, to cut through toward the north. To the south of Koluszki station some scattered units are roaming about. We captured prisoners, some heavy ordnance and field guns.

"The outcome of the battle of Nov. 24 was to our advantage.

"In the fighting near Szentochowa and Cracow our troops manifestly have the upper hand.

"Beyond the Carpathian passes we are surrounding large bodies of Austrian troops in the vicinity of Mezolaborcz. In this region we captured a general, forty officers, more than 3,500 soldiers and machine guns. Near the pass giving access to the Hungarian Plain we occupy the city of Homonka."

MORE EVIDENCES OF VICTORY

London, Nov. 26---The Morning Post's Petrograd correspondent says he learns that one German army corps of over forty thousand men, with their munitions complete, have been captured, and that he believes, when the official details of the fighting in the east are forthcoming, it will be found that at least two army corps have been captured.

REINFORCEMENTS.

Except for artillery fighting, the battle in the west remains virtually at a standstill, although in isolated attacks both sides claim to have made some progress. There is no indication where the next German blow is to be struck in their attempt to reach the French coast.

Lord Kitchener in the House of Lords today, declared that all the gaps in the British army which for a long time had fought against great odds, now had been filled, and that both British and French reinforcements had reached the front.

While Lord Kitchener expressed confidence in the result of the war, and asserted that 30,000 recruits were joining the British army each week, he warned the public that still more men would be required.

The Secretary of War added that an Indian force was in touch with the Turks thirty miles to the east of the Suez Canal, while Indian and British troops were busy on the shores of the Persian Gulf and throughout Africa. He said the Indian government had announced its intention to continue to support the Indian contingents fighting in France and elsewhere.

In dramatic interest the destruction by an explosion of the British battleship Bulwark, at anchor off Sheerness, with a loss of between 700 and 800 lives holds the chief place in the war news Suddenly (without a moment of warning), the big sea fighter was

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