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# The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.  
 Maritime—Moderate to fresh northeast to north winds, fair and cold today and on Friday.

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## GERMAN HOSTS STEADILY LOSING GROUND

### GREAT NAVAL VICTORY IN SOUTHERN PACIFIC

German Fleet Which Sunk the Monmouth and Good Hope Gets its Deserts at last--Over-hauled by a British Squadron near the Falkland Islands---Three German Cruisers Sent to the Bottom and Two Escape--British Casualties Few in Number.

London, Dec. 9--It is officially announced here today that the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig had been sunk in the South Atlantic. The following statement was issued by the official information bureau:

"At 7.30 a.m. on the 8th of December the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nurnberg, Leipzig and Dresden were sighted near the Falkland Islands by a British squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee.

"An action followed, in the course of which the Scharnhorst, flying the flag of Admiral Count Von Spee, the Gneisenau and the Leipzig were sunk. The Dresden and Nurnberg made off during the action and are being pursued. Two colliers were also captured.

"The Vice-admiral reports that the British casualties are very few in number. Some survivors have been rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig."

#### TO CLEAR SEAS OF ENEMY.

London, Dec. 9--A British squadron under command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, chief of the war staff, engaged a German squadron, under Admiral Count Von Spee, off the Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic, yesterday, and won a victory which is being acclaimed throughout England.

The armored cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, and the protected cruiser Leipzig, three of the German warships which had been menacing British shipping, and part of the squadron which sank the British cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth in the Pacific on November first, were destroyed, while the cruisers Dresden and Nurnberg, the two other vessels which composed the German squadron, made off during the fight and, according to latest accounts, are being pursued. Two colliers were captured.

The announcement of this engagement and victory, which was the most important naval engagement of the war, with the exception of that off Heligoland last August, was made this evening in a statement by the Admiralty of less than one hundred words.

The statement makes reference to some survivors rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig, but no mention is made of any of the crew of the Scharnhorst, which was the flagship of the German admiral, being saved, and it is presumed that Count Von Spee, his officers and men went down with the boat.

#### BRITISH LOSSES WERE LIGHT.

The British losses were light, but beyond the fact that the British squadron was commanded by Vice-Admiral Sturdee no information is vouchsafed regarding the ships engaged, and the newspapers are enjoined not to speculate as "other combinations may be effected."

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed in London over the victory, and the general impression is that it will be completed, as the Admiralty would not be likely to send ships that could not overtake the Dresden and Nurnberg, which are 24-knot and 23-knot vessels respectively, and probably

even slower after their long service. They are at a disadvantage also because of their small coal capacity.

The British squadron which engaged the Germans left England without the knowledge of the general public, and until his name was mentioned it was believed that Vice-Admiral Sturdee was serving in home waters. The fact that he was taken from the post of chief of the war staff is indicative of the determination of the British government to clear the Pacific and South Atlantic of all German warships. It is believed, therefore, that the British commander is at the head of a formidable squadron.

#### THE KARLSRUHE.

In addition to the Dresden and the Nurnberg, only one German warship--the Karlsruhe--is now unaccounted for in these waters, although there may be one or two armed merchantmen which the Allies have not rounded up.

As the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau each carried a complement of 765 men, the Leipzig 286, the Nurnberg 322 and the Dresden 261, the total German loss is estimated at not far from two thousand men, although the actual loss to the Dresden and Nurnberg can not yet be known.

#### TWO OTHER CRUISERS DAMAGED

Santiago, Chile, Dec. 9--The reports received here of the sinking of the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig by British warships off the Falklands Islands, say that two other German cruisers engaged in the battle were badly damaged.

#### A BUENOS AIRES REPORT.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 9--Three German merchantmen were sunk by British or Japanese warships off the coast of Terra Del Fuego, the southernmost extremity of South America last Sunday, according to advices just received here.

The information was contained in a wireless despatch to the minister of marine, from the commander of the Argentine war transport Piedra Buena.

The message said a division of warships, which the commander believed to have been either English or Japanese, aggregating five ironclads and one transport, on the morning of December 6, sank one of the Germans in the roadstead of Picton Island. The two other steamers were sent to the bottom the same evening, outside the harbor of Pantalón, near Cape Sanpio.

One steamer belonged to the German Cosmos line. The ownership of the others was not stated, but the commander of the Buena reported that one of them had a yellow funnel with a black ring around it.

The Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau are armored cruisers of the same tonnage, 11,420 tons, and are sister ships. Both are 449 feet long, with beams of 70 feet, and a draught of 24 feet, and an indicated horse power of their engines of 27,759 h.p. Both were completed in 1908. Each has a complement of 764 officers and men, and is armed with eight 8.2-guns, six

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### Information in Regard to the Military Situation at the Frontier is Very Meagre---Germans Catch It When Ever They Attempt Counter Attack on the Ypres

Condition of the Kaiser is reported Unchanged---Has been in Poor Health for Some Time---Has Paroxysms of Weeping and Anger--- Supreme Command May be Intrusted to the Crown Prince--Prussian Army Corps Has Lost Over Six Hundred Thousand Men Since the Beginning of the War According to Figures Given Out in Berlin.

#### GERMANS BEING WORSTED

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Dec. 10--Despatches to the "Daily Express" says, "What meagre information is obtained at the frontier today regarding the Military situation shows that the Germans still are subjected to defeats wherever they attempt counter attacks south of Ypres. Their futile efforts to stem the advance of the allies are still attended with heavy losses, trains of wounded are now arriving in Antwerp.

#### STATEMENT OF PRUSSIAN LOSSES

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Dec. 10--The losses in the Prussian army corps from the beginning of the war to November 30th total 603,100, in officers and men killed, wounded and missing, according to a despatch from Berlin.

The loss of officers have been 17,100 of whom 5000 have been killed 11,000 wounded and 110 missing. Ninety thousand men have been killed 380,000 wounded and 116,000 are given as missing.

#### KAISER'S CONDITION UNCHANGED

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Dec. 10--The latest bulletin issued in Berlin states that the Emperors condition is unchanged. He is unable to leave his bed and his fever has not decreased. The Kaiser has been in poor

health since his narrow escape from the aviators bomb at Thiel. He has grown nervous and has been afflicted by continual headaches as well as by alternate paroxysms of weeping and anger, using in the case of the latter the most violent language toward his officers. The Kaiser is now lying in his castle at Berlin, where he is being nursed by the Empress and he is reported to be in so serious a condition that the public have been warned by General Von Kesslock commanding Belin to refrain from making a demonstration in front of the castle windows. The physicians report that the patient is feverish, coughing continually and is not fit for any of the cares of state.

A telephone now connects the Kaiser's room with German headquarters but the Emperor is no longer in direct charge of the military operations. Should his illness be of long duration it is possible that the Crown Prince may be intrusted with supreme command.

#### WILL REACH AGREEMENT

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Dec. 10--The Sofia correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt" says that he has been confirmed in political circles that the negotiations between Roumania and Bulgaria soon will be ended by a full political agreement.

#### SERVIANS

Paris, Dec. 9--A despatch to the Havas Agency from Nish, Serbia, says:

"The crushing offensive movement of the Serbian army has been successful along the entire front. The Austrians are retiring in the greatest disorder, losing a number of prisoners and cannon and war material.

"At one point alone the Servians took 20,000 prisoners, and the 11th and the 22nd Regiments.

Rome, via London, Dec. 10--The Serbian legation makes public a report from Serbian headquarters to the effect that the Serbian army has won a complete victory, resulting in the recapture of the towns of Valjevo and Ushitza, in Serbia, and the rout of two Austrian corps.

The Austrians, says the report, abandoned everything, even their treasure chest. The Servians took twenty thousand prisoners, fifty cannon and large quantities of rifles, machine guns and munitions of every description.

#### FIGHT TO THE BITTER END

Paris, Dec. 9--Telegraphing from Nish, Serbia, the correspondent of the Havas Agency transmits an abstract of the declaration of the new Serbian cabinet read before the Serbian legislature today as follows:

"Convinced that the entire Serbian people has resolved to defend their homes and their liberty to the end.

by a holy war, the royal government feels it to be its duty to give assurance of the emancipation and the union of all our brothers deprived of their liberty by the Croats or Slavordans.

"The marvellous success which will crown this struggle will more than repay the tremendous sacrifices involved. In this war Serbia has no choice and the struggle will continue to be waged with unshakable courage.

"As the enemy still remains on Serbian territory the government cries to the people: 'Forward, with God's aid, against the enemy.'"

The reaping of this declaration was interrupted many times by enthusiastic outbursts from the assembled legislators.

#### COMMENT OF LONDON PRESS ON SEA VICTORY

London, Dec. 10--The Daily Chronicle's naval expert, commenting on British victory in the South Atlantic says:

"The navy and admiralty are to be heartily congratulated on our important victory whereby the Chilean defeat has been wiped off the score. The officer commanding the British squadron was vice-Admiral Sturdee, but the admiralty exercises wise reticence as to the names and number of ships in his command. As our casualties are reported to be few we may conclude that this time it was we, not the Germans, whose strategy succeeded in

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