

## ROUMANIA DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION

### King Ferdinand Held a Heated Interview With Austro-Hungarian Minister--Zeppelin Aircraft Passes Over Holland--An Uprising Feared in Brussels

#### VIOLENT FIGHTING IN EASTERN THEATRE

Germans Concentrate Big Force on the Russian Line Near Barjimow--Troops Were Packed in Such a Narrow Space That Artillery Became Useless--Russians Made a Brilliant Defence--Losses Were Heavy on Both Sides.

Petrograd, via London, Feb. 5--Not since the battle around Lodz, in Russian Poland, in the early part of December, have the Germans delivered such violent attacks as those of yesterday, when they attempted to drive through the Russian lines near Borjimow. Probably never before in the eastern area of the war have they concentrated such a force upon a single point.

In a distance of six miles between Humin and Borjimow the Germans threw 100,000 infantrymen, together with heavy forces of cavalry, the whole supported by one hundred batteries of artillery, comprising in all no less than six hundred guns. It is estimated that in this short line there were nearly thirty thousand men to the mile, coming on in ten or twelve lines, like the waves of the sea.

The Russians, warned by the attacks of previous days in this same vicinity, have concentrated correspondingly heavy forces to resist the German advance. So close were both sides packed in this narrow space that the artillery became practically useless.

The battlefield was a plain field, unobstructed by either trees or houses the latter having already been demolished by shell fire. The Russians met the German advance with rifle fire and the bayonet, the first lines struggling forward and backward from trench to trench. At some places the trenches were only a few hundred yards apart. The closeness of the line made the fighting extraordinarily sanguinary. Whole companies were entirely exterminated.

The most desperate German resistance was at Wola Szydlowiecka, which the Russians succeeded in taking at ten o'clock in the morning after a fight which lasted all night.

German prisoners in the hands of the Russians relate that in the German camp the division chosen to lead this undertaking was dubbed the "division in death," since it appeared to be a foregone conclusion that none would survive.

Russian military observers with the meagre details before them are likening the fight to the battle of Borodino, where Napoleon lost his Russian campaign.

The battle at Borjimow is continuing today with virtually unabated violence.

#### Russians Cross Bzura River.

London, Feb. 5--Coincident with the arrival at the front of Emperor Nicholas, the Russians have assumed the offensive directly west of Warsaw, and, according to a Russian official statement, have crossed the Bzura River and taken some German positions. This, in the opinion of military experts, will, if the Russians have sufficient forces, at their disposal break the deadlock which has existed in the battle in Central Poland for so many weeks, since it threatens the

flank of General Von Hindenburg's army, which is engaged in the violent struggle immediately to the southwest, in an effort to break down the Russian defensive in the region of Borjimow.

The Russians appear, according to reports from Petrograd, to have crossed the Bzura near its junction with the Vistula ann, working southward, to have taken part of the German position near Dabhowa, south of Sochaczew, which was the point at which the Germans made their original attempt to break the Warsaw line. This new offensive on the part of the Russians explains their anxiety to clear the right bank of the Lower Vistula of the Germans for, having accomplished this, they are free of threats of an outflanking movement from that direction.

Still, there has been no slackening in the desperate fighting which has been proceeding for some days in the woods and roads along the right bank of the Rawka River, from Borjimow to the Skiernewice Warsaw road.

Here attacks of the Germans alternate with those of the Russians under an artillery fire whose violence has never been exceeded.

#### Russians Hold Ground.

In the meantime the Russians are making slow progress in East Prussia, and are withstanding the attempts of the Austro-German forces to take the offensive on the River Nida, in Southern Poland, and on the Dunajec River, in Galicia. The Austrians admit the loss of Tarnow-Galicia, an important centre, possession of which by the Russians insures the main line of communications in Western Galicia.

In the midst of the snow of the Carpathians the two armies still are contending for the passes which lead into Hungary. The Austro-German forces drove the Russians back from the passes which they had occupied on their extreme right, to the west of Dukla Pass, but elsewhere the Russians claim to be making progress or, at any rate, to be holding their own.

Artillery engagements and a few small infantry attacks make up the sum of the operations on the western front. There are indications, however, that the Allies are preparing the way for an offensive movement in the Arras region, where their artillery has been very busy, and where they have captured some German trenches. In the Argonne region, too, the French claim to have improved their position. The failure of the Turks in their preliminary attack on the Suez Canal gives a good deal of satisfaction to England, as it is felt that the Territorial and Australian troops engaged there have proved their mettle. Military men express the belief that the Turkish attack was only in the nature of a feeler and that an organized as-

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Amsterdam, Feb. 6--An aircraft passed over Kampen in Northern Holland yesterday going in a westerly direction. Kampen is on the east shore of the Zuyderzee about twenty-eight miles from the nearest point on the German border. Eye-witnesses declare the aircraft was a Zeppelin, say a despatch.

#### GERMANS SCARCE OF GOLD

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Feb. 6--Germany is employing every means to secure gold. The Teachers in the schools of Zeehacndorf have promised the boys a reward of war bread to the value of six pence for each twenty marks gold piece which they bring in exchange for paper money. More than 2,000 marks in gold has been collected in this way.

#### DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Rome, Feb. 6--A despatch from Vienna to the "Idea Nazionale" tells of an interview between the Austro-Hungarian minister of Bucharest and King Ferdinand. The conversation between Emperor Francis Joseph representative and the King of Roumania was quite heated. The King demanded an explanation of the concentration of Austrian troops in Transylvania near the Roumanian border. The Austro-Hungarian minister replied vaguely whereupon the King abruptly terminated the interview, Remarking that his answers were very unsatisfactory.

#### GERMANS NOT SAFE IN BRUSSELS

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Feb. 6--The headquarters of Gen. Von Bissing, the German military governor of Belgium, will be transferred from Brussels to either Namur or Antwerp says the Echo Belge. The change in the administrative headquarters of the German occupied territory is due it is stated to the fact that indiscretions of number of German officers have so aroused the people that the officials no longer feel safe in Brussels.

#### GERMANS WERE REPULSED

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Petrograd, Feb. 6--Following the decided defeat of the German assaults in the vicinity of Bolimow, the Russian army has begun a movement to establish itself on the left bank of the Vistula east of Bzura. By the assumption of the offensive yesterday Russia gained a foothold on the east bank of the Bzura at Dakowo, which was held by the left wing of the German Mackenzens army in central Poland. With a turning movement at the same time an advance at this point will serve as a support to the Russian army in Northern Poland which would have been seriously endangered had the Germans been victorious in Warsaw.