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Air Raiders Aimed At Allies' Warships

Seizure of the Teuton Consuls at Saloniki a Natural Reprisal

PARIS, Jan. 1.—The raid of Bulgarian and German aeroplanes over Saloniki reported in the French bulleting does not necessarily mean that an attack by troops will follow. London and Paris were raided by aircraft, but no troops have yet reached those cities.

Nor is it probable that the raid was for the purpose of observation. There is no need to send a man conspicuously in an aeroplane to count the warships in the harbor when an inconspicuous man on the wharf has for weeks been furnishing more accurate information, and when Saloniki is full of spies who are able to communicate with Doiran, Gevgheli, and Monastir.

An observer 2,000 yards in the air would be unable to tell the Central Powers anything of which they are not already informed. Their agents are on the quays, streets, and roads leading to and beyond the military camps, and even at work building roads in the camps.

The object of the raid was more likely for moral effect or to throw bombs on transports and warships. The bomb reported dropped upon a battalion of Greek soldiers was probably launched by mistake, owing to the Greek uniform being of khaki colored cloth similar to the British at a distance.

It is evident that the French squadron of aircraft were taken by surprise, and that if the raiders return they will receive a warmer welcome, as during the Serbian campaign the French aeroplanes showed splendid efficiency and furnished valuable information. This was accomplished under most unfavorable conditions of snow, fog, and treacherous cross currents above valleys and over a terrain barren of landing places.

In arresting and removing the Consuls of the enemy in reprisal for the raid, General Sarrail followed the only possible course. The consulates have been the headquarters of army and navy officers of the Central Powers, Turkey and Bulgaria, besides furnishing a clearing house for all the spies.

Saloniki is supposed to be neutral territory, but the presence of foreign Consuls at the base of two armies has been a most serious menace. Their enforced departure will add to the responsibilities of the American Consul in looking after their interests. Our Government is represented in Saloniki by John E. Kehl, long in the service and most admirably fitted to meet the present crisis. He has been a resident of Saloniki for the last four years, during which his experience as Consul during the Italo-Turkish war, the two Balkan wars, and the present one has trained him to meet any emergency that may now arise.

When the Greeks captured Saloniki Consul Kehl was one of those sent out to meet King cvonstantine and arrange that the city should not be bombarded.

The position of a Consul in Saloniki, owing to the former ex-territorial privileges and right to conduct trials and sentence to death, gives the post peculiar authority. In importance it

outranks many legations. The consulates are all established in an imposing building, surrounded by gardens and trees, facing the harbor on Reine Olga street, and guarded by a staff of uniformed kavess.

Before I left Saloniki the Consuls of the Central Powers had already sent their families to Athens and were arranging with Consul Kehl to take over their archives.