

TROOPSHIP CARRYING AMERICANS TORPEDOED OFF THE IRISH COAST

2,179 United States Troops Aboard; 1,912
Survivors Are Landed

TUSCANIA WAS MANNED BY BRITISH CREW

Men on Board Principally From States of
Michigan and Wisconsin

Steamer Was Sunk in War Zone
While Being Conveyed By British
Warships—Survivors Landed At
Irish Ports—President Hears
News At Theatre.

Washington.—The British steamship Tuscania, with 2,179 United States soldiers on board, has been torpedoed and sunk in the war zone. No estimate of the loss of life is available, but 1,912 survivors have been landed at Buncrana and Larne, Ireland.

It was announced that the Tuscania was manned by British sailors, with a British naval guard and was conveyed by British warships.

The War Department announced that its records show the following were on board the Tuscania:

THE UNITS ON BOARD.

Headquarters detachments and Companies D, E and F of the 20th Engineers.

107th engineer train.
107th military police.
107th supply train.
Number 100 aero squadron.
158th aero squadron.
213 aero squadron.
Replacement detachment numbers and 2 of the 32nd division.
Fifty-one casual officers.

FROM THE WEST.

The 32nd Division is composed of National Guard troops from Michigan and Wisconsin. The division trained at Camp McArthur, Texas.

The 107th Engineers was composed of the First Battalion of Michigan Engineers; the 107th Military Police was made up from the 4th and 6th Wisconsin Infantry and the 107th Supply Train from the 4th, 5th and 6th Wisconsin Infantry.

Although still hoping for more favorable news, officials feared that the report meant that all except 1,912 landed had been lost.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The disaster was officially announced by the War Department. The department issued this statement:

"The War Department has been officially advised that the steamship Tuscania was torpedoed and sunk and that survivors numbering 1,100 as far as could be ascertained were landed at Buncrana and Larne, in Ireland. There was a total of 2,179 United States troops on this vessel."

Later it was announced that 1,912 of the officers and men on board the Tuscania were reported accounted for in a dispatch to the State Department from the American Embassy at London.

The soldiers aboard the Tuscania belonged to no distinctive military units from any state and were largely small detachments from all parts of the country being forwarded to join the forces in France.

The War Department announced that because of the fact that there was no distinctive unit, it would be impossible to say definitely who was on the steamer until complete reports had been received from the other side.

President Wilson was at the theatre when the official announcement was made.

Thus, all the soldiers are former Wisconsin and Michigan Guardsmen except those in the aero squadrons, who probably were recruited from all parts of the country.

Neither the dispatch to the War Department nor that to the State Department referred to the fate of the members of the Tuscania's crew. Undoubtedly many of them were saved, and when all reports are in officials hope that the loss of life will be remarkably small.

The liner, which is not a regular transport, was under convoy and the warships apparently were quickly along side for rescue work when the torpedo struck.

Red Cross And Y. M. C. A. There.

The Ambassador at London has sent an assistant military attaché and another army officer to Belfast, Ireland. Representatives of the American Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. also have gone, with full power to spend all the money needed and authorizations from the British Red Cross to use their equipment at Belfast. The Ambassador further reports that the Lord Mayor at Belfast is giving all the aid possible.

The Tuscania was the first ship carrying American troops to Europe to be sunk by German submarines, but the American transport Antilles was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone while returning to the United States from France and 14 soldiers were lost with 156 other persons, including several members of the naval armed guard.

Attacks Fought Off.

American warships conveying transports to France last June twice fought off submarine attacks. Since then, however, there has been no report of an attack on a ship carrying American troops to Europe.

Recently the Navy Department has feared that the Germans would make a concerted effort to intercept transports, the recall of many of the submarines to their bases being interpreted as preliminary to such a campaign.

The position of the Tuscania when she was sunk is taken to indicate that she was bound to England. Her sinking definitely discloses that British ships are being used to carry American troops abroad, supplementing American transport tonnage. This fact has been intimated before and probably arises from the decision of the Supreme War Council to make every effort to augment General Pershing's Army during the present year.

Accidents Unavoidable.

Naval officials have insisted that despite the most careful plans and efforts to safeguard transports, there was always a chance that a troop ship would stumble upon a lurking submarine and the general belief was that this is what had happened in this case.

The same regulations as to life-saving apparatus govern the movement of American troops on a British vessel as would govern their passage on an American craft.

Those regulations, which are rigidly enforced, provide for sufficient lifeboats and life raft capacity for every man aboard the ship, even if one-half of the boats are rendered useless through the listing of the ship when she is struck.

First Transport Lost.

Although prior to January 1 of the present year there were more than 200,000 American troops in France, according to the statement made by Secretary of War Baker, the Tuscania was the first transport to be torpedoed on the voyage from an American port to France. Several American transports, however, have been torpedoed on the return journey, after having debarked troops.

When the Tuscania was first put into service her apartments for first-cabin passengers, of whom she could carry 350, were sumptuous. The paneling of her main lounge room was in olive wood, inlaid with a line of sycamore. The floors were of polished oak.

A veranda, cafe and gymnasium smoking rooms, dining saloons and a novel system of heating and ventilation were features of the new liner. The first and second class state rooms were situated on the bridge deck and shelter-deck amidships and were large in size and well furnished.

It is probable, however, in view of the exigencies of the situation that the steamer had been stripped of most of her luxurious fittings in order to take as great a number of troops as possible on each voyage.

On Irish Coast.

Buncrana, at which survivors from the Tuscania were landed, is located on Lough Swilly, on the Northern Coast of Ireland, 12 miles from Londonderry. Lough Swilly is a long, narrow bay running in from the Atlantic Ocean.

Larne, where other survivors were landed from the vessel, is on the Northeast coast of Ireland, 23 miles from Belfast. It is a North Channel port. The approximate distance by water between the two ports is 100 miles.

MUST PREACH TO ONE MAN.

Chaplain Candidates Required To Deliver Sermon As Test.

Washington.—To hear at least one sermon from each applicant for the post of chaplain in the navy is the war-time duty imposed on Chaplain J. B. Frazier, chairman of the examination board. With Chaplain Frazier as the congregation the candidate delivers from the pulpit of a local church a sermon which is considered in determining his fitness for the service.

224 LOST WITH SHIP.

British Armed Steamer Louvain Torpedoed in Mediterranean.

London.—The British armed boarder steamer Louvain, Lieut.-Com. M. G. Easton commanding, was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Eastern Mediterranean on January 21. Seven officers and 217 men were lost.

TURNED TABLES ON THE GERMANS

American Gunners Break Up
Plans for a Raid

GERMAN LOSS WAS SEVERE

Fire Concentrated On Spot Where
Enemy Is Massed—Great Courage During Bombardment.

The American Army in France.—German plans to raid the American trenches were frustrated. The American artillerymen put down a heavy barrage in front of and on the German lines, which are believed to have been filled with men and officers awaiting the signal to attack. It was discovered at a certain hour that the Germans intended to carry out a "silent" raid. Fifteen minutes before the time set, all the American guns concentrated their fire where, according to the information, the enemy was massed. It is believed heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans.

There has been a general increase in the artillery activity for the last day or so all along the American front. The Germans are still unable to occupy the first-line trenches which were caved in by the American artillery fire. They have now constructed another line of trenches at that point.

American patrols have worked their way over No Man's Land and inspected the damaged trenches as well as they could.

The Germans are using gas shells freely, and endeavored to envelop one of our battery positions with gas, but without success. They have dropped a number of shells in the roads behind the American lines.

Two men were reported wounded by shells. The visibility remains bad.

Fuller reports from the first-line show that great courage was exhibited by the troops during the heavy German bombardment of Saturday. A number of men who were wounded slightly by shell splinters were treated in the lines with their first-aid packets and insisted on remaining at their posts until the fight was finished. One man who was carried to a field dressing station returned to his comrades in the line after his wounds had been attended to and remained on duty until the firing ceased and the danger was over. All the men later went to a hospital for full treatment.

World War in Brief

From the North Sea to the Swiss frontier the military activity daily seems to be growing in intensity, and it may be fair to assume that in the not distant future some of the big battles that have been forecast will break. The American, British and French armies have been taking hacks at the German line, either by fairly strong patrol attacks or by bombardments, while in turn the Teutons have been giving considerable attention on various sectors to their enemies.

From the American viewpoint another successful maneuver by the Americans on their sector of the front is of the greatest interest. As on last Saturday, the Americans again have nipped in the bud an impending surprise attack on their trenches and taught the Germans a salutary lesson with their artillery. In the German trenches the Teutons were awaiting the word to go over the top for an attack when the Americans opened a heavy fire on the positions.

Heavy casualties are believed to have been inflicted on the Teutons and considerable damage was done by the 75's on the German trenches due to the accuracy of aim of the American gunners.

The Germans have not yet been able to recapture the trenches and dugouts battered by the American fire Saturday evening and have been forced to build another line of trenches at that particular point.

Next in importance to the operations on the American front have been attacks by the Germans against the French in the Aisne region and north of Verdun, near Beaumont. The French War Office asserts that the attacks north of the Aisne were repulsed, but the German War Office says that south of Beaucourt Baden storming troops pushed far into the French front, inflicted heavy casualties and returned to their own lines with prisoners.

The British have carried out successful raids against the Teutons southwest of Armentieres and in the vicinity of the Ypres Staden Railway, where many of the enemy were killed and others captured.

Intensive air fighting has been going on between the French and the Germans in France and between the Italian and British airmen and the Germans in the Italian theatre. Sunday 13 enemy planes were downed by the French far inside the German lines, while an equal number were shot down by British and Italian airmen.

AMERICAN FORCES IN BIG GUN DUEL

On Their Own Battle Front in
France.

WRECK ENEMY DUG OUTS

Huns Concentrate On U. S. Trenches
—Their Aviators Balked In Attempt To Get Behind The Line.

American Army in France.—A German barrage fire at sundown Saturday night opened the heaviest bombardment of many days along the American sector, the American artillery replying shell for shell as the firing of the heavy guns spread along several kilometres of front.

Two Americans were killed and nine wounded during the bombardment, and one suffered shell shock.

The American gunners wrecked several of the enemy dugouts and so badly damaged the first-line positions that at one point the Germans were unable to occupy them.

When the bombardment had reached its greatest intensity, the Germans suddenly concentrated their fire at two points, throwing about 250 shells into a town in which the headquarters of a certain regiment are located, and which heretofore had been immune to enemy fire.

After the bombardment, a wounded American soldier was discovered in a position where it was necessary to carry him over a trench top to a field dressing station. A Medical Corps man displayed the Red Cross, and the Germans ceased firing until the man was removed.

Early in the day an American was wounded by a sniper.

American Army in France.—American troops now are occupying a sector of the Lorraine front in France. It is announced is permitted by the military censor.

The whole American sector is resounding with the boom of guns. Airmen became exceedingly active along the American front on Saturday. Enemy snipers wounded two Americans.

A shift of the wind cleared away the mist which has hindered aerial operations and other activities for several days. A number of battles in the air were fought by patrolling planes. In one instance the French aviators defeated an attempt of German fliers to cross behind the American trenches.

The artillery and snipers also have become increasingly active. American 75s are harassing traffic behind the enemy trenches. The Germans are confining their fire largely to the American trenches.

Throughout Friday night machine guns rattled ceaselessly from German positions.

The French commander of a sausage balloon squadron, who was an artillery officer at Verdun during the heaviest fighting and who also participated in the Somme offensive, declared that the work of certain American batteries at the front was "almost perfect." He was particularly pleased with the work done by American guns in firing on a German position in a wood, which he observed from a balloon.

The fact that American troops were in the trenches in Lorraine was revealed by the German War Office three months ago. At that time, according to an official German announcement, the Americans were on the front at the Rhine-Marne canal, which intersects the battle line near the German border, due east of Nancy. This announcement was made in the official report from Berlin of the first German raid on the American positions, in which three Americans were killed, five wounded and twelve captured.

The eastern end of the battle line in France and Belgium runs through French and German Lorraine. French Lorraine, in which is the American sector, is included in the Departments of Meuse, the capital of which is Verdun; Meurthe-et-Moselle, whose capital is Nancy, and Vosges, with the capital at Epinal. The length of the front in French Lorraine is about 150 miles.

This section of the battle line extends into the Meuse from the Marne near St. Monheould, and runs eastward to the north of Verdun, south of St. Mihiel and east to the German border. There it turns to the southeast, and almost parallels the border to the vicinity of Leintry. Below Leintry it cuts across a section of French soil, past Badonviller and Senones and to the east of St. Die, and again crosses the German border at a point west of Colmar. The remainder of the line to the Swiss boundary is in Germany.

Since the battle of Verdun there has been no fighting of great importance along this front. For the most part it runs through high and broken country. Since the present battle line was established early in the war there has been comparatively little activity on the front to the east of the Verdun sector, the nature of the country making large operations impracticable.

RED CROSS REPORTS

ORGANIZATION ACCOUNTS FOR
MONEY ENTRUSTED TO IT.

To Date \$79,430,727.35 Has Been Appropriated for Relief Work—
Criticisms Answered.

Washington, Feb. 4.—What the American Red Cross has done with the vast sums of money entrusted to it by the people of the United States is stated in detail in a report just issued by the national headquarters. To date, \$79,430,727.35 has been appropriated for relief work in this country and abroad.

For foreign relief \$44,657,795 has been appropriated as follows: France, \$30,519,259.60; Belgium, \$1,999,631; Russia, \$751,940.87; Roumania, \$2,617,398.76; Italy, \$3,146,016; Serbia, \$871,180.76; Great Britain, \$1,703,642; other foreign countries, \$2,536,300; American soldiers who may be taken prisoner, \$343,627.

The foregoing appropriations are from the time the United States entered the war until April 30, 1918. For the United States the Red Cross has appropriated \$2,612,532.60 and the reason this sum is not larger is because the government provides nearly everything our army and navy needs, and besides, there is no civilian distress in this country of any considerable proportions.

The great variety of the military and civilian relief work being done by the Red Cross is indicated briefly in the following list: Canteens that afford food, baths and sleeping quarters for men at the front; rest stations and recreation centers for soldiers in transit and at port of arrival in France; care of destitute children; furnishing supplies to 4,000 hospitals; teaching mutilated soldiers new trades; reconstruction of villages; bringing together families of soldiers scattered by the war; farms for convalescent soldiers; sanitariums for tubercular and other patients; food, clothing, medicine, and shelter for the homeless and destitute; and other activities too numerous to mention.

It is stated by the national war council that all salaries and administrative expenses are paid out of membership dues, so that every penny given to the Red Cross war fund has been spent for relief. This answers the rumors that have been circulated about the expenses of operation.

Out of 255 executives in the fourteen divisional offices of the Red Cross in the United States, 59 per cent. are women. The policy is to select the most competent person regardless of politics, sex or religion.

DECISION OF WAR COUNCIL.

To Prosecute War Until The Pressure Produces Change Of Temper In Enemy.

London.—The Supreme War Council, which met at Versailles, finds no approximation in the German Chancellor's and the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister's speeches to the terms of the Entente Allies and has decided to continue the vigorous prosecution of the war until peace can be obtained "based on the principles of freedom, justice and respect for international law."

This official announcement was made here. A summary of the official report of the War Council says:

"The council was unable to find in Von Hertling's and Czernin's recent utterances any real approximation to the moderate conditions laid down by the Allies' governments. Under the circumstances the council decided that the only task before them to meet was the vigorous and effective prosecution of the war until the pressure of that effort produced a change of temper in the enemy governments, justifying the hope of the conclusion of a peace based on the principles of freedom, justice and respect for international law."

"The council arrived at a complete unanimity of policy on measures for the prosecution of the war."

PILOT AND CAPTAIN HELD.

Former Blamed For Collision That Wrecked Halifax.

Halifax, N. S.—Blame for the collision between the French munitions ship Mont Blanc and the Belgian relief ship Imo, resulting in the explosion of the former vessel, which destroyed a large part of Halifax on December 6, was placed upon Pilot MacKay, of Halifax, and Captain Lamodee, of the French ship, in a judgment announced by the government commission which investigated the collision.

With the announcement of the commission's judgment, Pilot MacKay was arrested charged with manslaughter, the commission having recommended that he be criminally prosecuted and his license canceled.

The commission also recommends to the French authorities the cancellation of the license of Captain Lamodee and "that he be dealt with according to the law of his country."

Captain Lamodee was also arrested charged with manslaughter.

HUNS SENTENCE 2 BRITISHERS.

Amsterdam.—Two captured British airmen, the Tages Zeitung, of Berlin, says, have been sentenced by a German court martial to ten years' imprisonment for dropping a hostile proclamation in Germany.

TELLING TRUTH ABOUT AMERICA

Great Task of Committee on
Public Information.

TO MOLD WORLD OPINION

Wonderful Work Is Being Done by
The Committee Of Which George
Creel Is Chairman—Its Varied
Activities Summarized.

Washington.—Moulding opinion about the world and hammering home the truth about America's entry into the war, is the gigantic task assumed by the Committee on Public Information, so George Creel, chairman, wrote to President Wilson, in his report just made public.

"The Committee on Public Information has grown to be a world organization," the report states. "Not only does it touch every part of the machinery that co-ordinates the forces of America for victory but it carries the meanings and purposes of America to all peoples, making the fight for public opinion in every country."

Every agency known for the dissemination of news is being employed. From Tuckerton and Key West the doctrine of democracy is flashed to Eifel Tower and Rome. Radio stations at San Diego relay a thousand or more words a day to Honolulu, Yokohama and Shanghai.

Cables, telegraph and mails supplement the work of the radio while in every hamlet and city in the land 15,000 "minute men" are doing their bit.

Outlining the work already accomplished by his committee, Creel continues:

"Besides the daily news which it issues to the whole press of the country it supplies some 20,000 newspapers with feature articles, a weekly news service and governmental publicity material of all sorts."

"It has prepared and printed for distribution to all parts of the world 18,000,000 copies of 15 different pamphlets in seven languages."

"It conducts speaking campaigns in every state of the union, arranges meetings, books, speakers, conducts war conferences and organizes tours and through the minute men alone it commands the services of 15,000 public speakers."

"It has wireless and public news service that is being extended to every capital in Europe, South and Central America and Asia and a feature article service of similar proportions."

"It sends to foreign countries motion picture exhibits showing America's social, industrial and war progress."

"It has mobilized the advertising forces of the country—press, periodical, car and outdoor—for a patriotic campaign that will give \$20,000,000 worth of free space to the national service."

"It designs posters, window cards and similar matter of pictorial publicity for the use of various public departments and patriotic societies."

"It prepares moving picture films showing our war progress and exhibits them to hundreds of thousands of people daily."

"It issues an official daily newspaper for the government with a circulation of 90,000 copies a day."

"It has organized and now directs a round dozen of societies and leagues designed to appeal to certain classes and particular foreign language groups each body carrying a specific message to its section of America's adopted peoples."

"It establishes rules and regulations for the cable censorship with respect to press dispatches."

"It prepares and distributes, advises upon and censors photographs and moving pictures to the number of more than 700 a day."

"It has only 250 paid employees, but it directs and co-ordinates the patriotic work of 5,000 volunteer writers and artists and 20,000 public speakers."

Contracting Disloyalty.

"To carry on its multifarious activities in the United States it has spent from its beginning, in April, 1917, down to December 31, 1917, \$119,821.96 for salaries and \$325,712.20 for all its other expenses."

Accepting the report, President Wilson wrote Creel as follows:

"The White House, Washington, January 14, 1918:

"To carry on

"My dear Mr. Creel: I have just finished reading the report of the Committee on Public Information which you are kind enough to bring me last week, and I want to say how much it has gratified me and how entirely the work being done by the committee meets with my approval. I have kept in touch with that work, piece by piece, as you know, in our several interviews, but had not realized its magnitude when assembled in a single statement."

"I feel confident that as the work of the committee progresses it will move and more win the public approval and confidence. Cordially and sincerely yours,

"WOODROW WILSON."