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PRICE TWO CENTS

ARMED FORCE, WILSON'S THREAT IN BERLIN CRISIS

KUT-EL-AMARA FALLS BEFORE BRITISH DRIVE

Mesopotamian Stronghold Retaken After Long Campaign

TURKS IN RETREAT ALONG ENTIRE LINE

Haig's Troops Press Toward Bapaume as Germans Retire on Ancre

OCCUPY MANY POSITIONS

Seize Serre, Miraumont, Petit Miraumont, Pys and Other Points

LONDON, Feb. 26.

Kut-el-Amara has been recaptured by British forces.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Andrew Bonar Law made the announcement this afternoon in the House of Commons.

He said the Turkish garrison was in full retreat.

"The whole enemy's positions at Sann Al Yat and Kut-el-Amara have been secured," the Mesopotamian statement announced. Kut itself is automatically ours.

Prisoners taken numbered 1730. Four guns, ten machine guns and three mine throwers were taken and much other war material and supplies captured. The fighting now becomes open.

A statement from the British Mesopotamian expeditionary force Suday night had in a measure prepared England for the long-expected and devoutly wished for victory at Kut. It was then stated that the Turks in the city had been practically surrounded.

Kut-el-Amara held a sentimental value to England because it was the scene of General Townshend's heroic stand against the Turkish forces early in the war.

General Townshend surrendered to the Turkish forces April 28, 1916. He had held the strategic position for 143 days against all assaults, his small forces making a tremendous fight against overwhelming superior Turkish assailants.

The exact force which was thus lost by surrender has never been made public. It was known that there were 581 officers.

BRITISH ONLY FOUR MILES FROM BAPAUME

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES AFIELD, Feb. 26.

Bapaume, on which the Germans lavished great defensive works and which they have often declared would fall only "after the greatest price ever paid by a victorious army," is now directly threatened by the greatest German retirement since "stationary warfare" began more than two years ago.

Exulting in their newly won possession of such historic towns as Miraumont, Petit Miraumont and Pys, the British forces were today exploring the exact limits of the German retreat.

The British, on the Ancre River, are now about four miles west of Bapaume, their chief objective of this front. The town has been shelled by British guns until it is a mass of ruins. The Germans have been falling back methodically under the pounding of the British artillery. Dispatches from the front today said that much of the recent fighting along the northern end of the Somme has been carried on at night and in thick fog where it was almost impossible to see the object of attack until one was right upon it.

German prisoners, taken around Irles, say that German officers believe that the British and French plan to renew the Somme offensive at the point where it was left off in December, when mud and storms put an end to fighting.

While the French artillery has been active elsewhere on the front the British have taken the initiative on the Somme and are evidenly going to push it through to a decision.

The three objectives of the Anglo-French forces on the Somme front were Peronne, Combles and Bapaume. Combles is the only

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THE WEATHER

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Probably some light rain tonight, with lowest temperature about forty degrees; Tuesday clearing, with rapidly falling temperature; fresh southwest winds tonight, becoming northwest Tuesday.

LENGTH OF DAY

Sun rises.....6:39 a.m. | Moon rises. 8:20 a.m.
Sun sets.....5:48 p.m. | Moon sets..10:51 p.m.

DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES

CHESTNUT STREET

Low water....8 a.m. | Low water..12:18 p.m.
High water..5:04 a.m. | High water. 5:26 p.m.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

8	9	10	11	12	1	*2	3	4	5
41	42	45	52	53	53	53			

PRESIDENT SEEKS SANCTION, CLAIMING AUTHORITY ALREADY, TO ACT ON U-BOAT SITUATION

Addresses Joint Session of Congress, Requesting Plenary Powers in Event of Precipitate Act, "Which Has Not Yet Come"

Believes Country May Trust Him to Preserve Peace if Possible, but Sees His Duty and Intends Doing It. Would Arm Merchantmen—War Depends Wholly on German Course

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—President Wilson today addressed a joint session of Congress on the international situation, asking authority to use armed force to maintain this country's neutrality in the face of the German U-boat campaign. Diplomatic means, the President said, had failed adequately to protect American rights and property. Specifically, he asked authority to arm merchant vessels.

The President's address was as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Congress:

"I have again asked the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical times, during which it seems to me to be my duty to keep in close touch with the houses of Congress so that neither counsel nor action shall run at cross-purposes between us.

"On the 3d of February, I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the Imperial German Government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to this Government in April last, and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce, whether of belligerents or of neutrals, that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe, or the harbors of the eastern Mediterranean and to conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice, without regard to any consideratons of humanity even, which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice. It has now been in active execution for nearly four weeks.

AMERICAN COMMERCE HIT BY RAIDS

"Its practical results are not yet fully disclosed. The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely, but not, perhaps, very much more severely than it was already suffering before the first of February, when the new policy of the Imperial Government was put into operation. We have asked the cooperation of the other neutral Governments to prevent these depredations, but so far none of them has thought it wise to join us in any common course of action. Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering, rather in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timidly keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk.

"Two American vessels have been sunk, the Housatonic and the Lyman M. Law. The case of the Housatonic, which was carrying foodstuffs consigned to a London firm, was essentially like the case of the Frye, in which, it will be recalled, the German Government admitted its liability for damages, and the lives of the crew, as in the case of the Frye, were safeguarded with reasonable care. The case of the Law, which was carrying lemon box staves to Palermo, disclosed a ruthlessness of method which deserves grave condemnation, but was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time in connection with the use of the submarine against merchantmen as the German Government has used it.

"OVERT ACT" HAS NOT OCCURRED

"In sum, therefore, the situation we find ourselves in with regard to the actual conduct of the German submarine warfare against commerce and its effects upon our own ships and people is substantially the same that it was when I addressed you on the 3d of February, except for the tying up of our shipping in our own ports because of the unwillingness of our ship owners to risk their vessels at sea without insurance or adequate protection, and the very serious congestion of our commerce which has resulted, a congestion which is growing rapidly more and more serious every day. This in itself might presently accomplish in effect what the new German submarine orders were meant to accomplish, so far as we are concerned. We can only say that the overt act which I have ventured to hope the German commanders would in fact avoid has not occurred.

"But while this is happily true, it must be admitted that there have been certain additional indications and expressions of purpose on the part of the German press and the German authorities which have increased rather than lessened the impression that, if our ships and our people are spared, it will be because of fortunate circumstances, or because the commanders of the German submarines which they may happen to encounter exercise an unexpected discretion and restraint rather than because of the instructions under which those commanders are acting.

"It would be foolish to deny that the situation is fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers.

"No thoughtful man can fail to see that the necessity for definite action may come at any time, if we are in fact, and not in word merely, to defend our elementary rights as a neutral nation. It would be most imprudent to be unprepared.

"I cannot in such circumstances be unmindful of the fact that the expiration of the term of the present Congress is immediately at hand, by constitutional limitation; and that it would in all likelihood require an unusual length of time to assemble and organize the Congress which is to succeed it. I feel that I ought, in view of that fact, obtain from you full and immediate assurance of the authority which I may need at any moment to exercise.

CLAIMS AUTHORITY TO ACT IN CRISIS

"No doubt I already possess that authority without special warrant of law, by the plain implication of my constitutional duties and powers; but I prefer, in the present circumstances, not to act upon general implication. I wish to feel that the authority and the power of the Congress are behind me in whatever it may become necessary for me to do. We are jointly the servants of the people and must act together in their spirit, so far as we can divine and interpret it.

"No one doubts what it is our duty to do. We must defend our commecre and the lives of our people in the midst of the present trying circumstances with discretion, but with clear and steadfast purpose. Only the method and the extent remain to be chosen, upon the occasion, if occasion should indeed arise. Since it has unhappily proved impossible to safeguard our neutral rights by diplomatic means against the unwarranted infringements they are suffering at the hands of Germany, there may be no resource but to armed neutrality, which we shall know how to maintain and for which there is abundant American precedent.

"It is devoutly to be hoped that it will not be necessary to put armed

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DUTCH FEAR BERLIN PLOTS TO FORCE WAR

Sinking of Ships and Entrenching of Troops Taken as Signs

COVETS STORES OF FOOD

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Conviction grew in Great Britain today that Germany deliberately planned the torpedoing of the seven Dutch ships reported to have fallen victims to German "ruthlessness."

The belief was based on the theory that Germany, her belt tight from lack of food, has for a long time looked longingly at comfortable, well-fed Holland and her acres under cultivation, and deliberately sought to force the Netherlands Government into war, so that she might raid this storehouse of a nation. This assumption, it was pointed out, would explain the mysterious massing of large German forces on the Dutch border and the action of the German submarines in not living up to a safe-conduct granted by Berlin to the Dutch vessels.

Holland now believes it understands why two months ago Germany began massing troops near the frontier and appreciates the menace in widespread rumors that these troops have actually constructed trenches paralleling the line. Public indignation over the sinking of seven Dutch

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FIFTEEN OF LACONIA SURVIVORS LANDED

LONDON, Feb. 26. Fifteen survivors of the Laconia already have been landed, according to reports from Queenstown late this afternoon. Some, among the others now being brought to shore, were said to be injured.

BRITISH "WIN THE WAR" LOAN TOTALS $7,564,750,000

LONDON, Feb. 26.—England's "win the war" loan subscriptions totalled 1,312,850,000 pounds (approximately $7,564,750,000) of new money, Chancellor Bonar Law announced in Commons today.

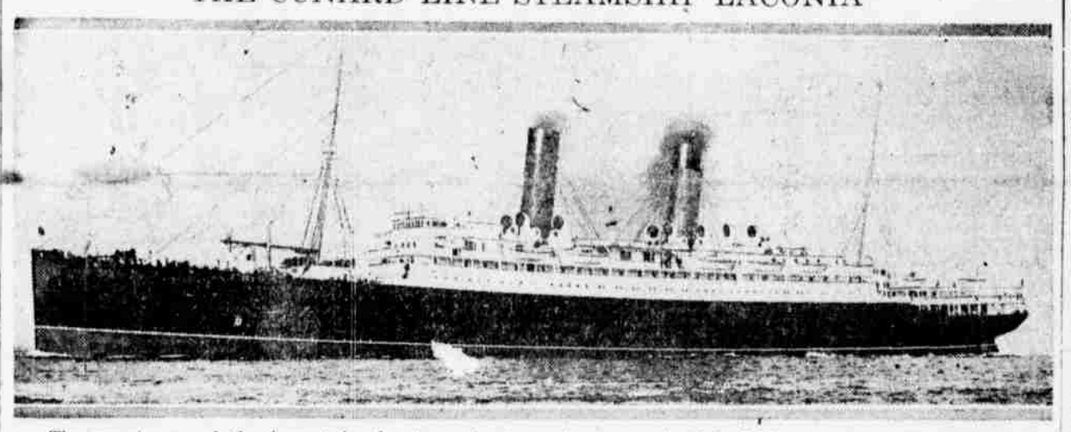
BIG SPANISH SUBMARINE SAILS FROM NEW LONDON

NEW LONDON, Conn., Feb. 26.—The big Spanish submarine Isaac Peral, recently completed in this country, sailed today for Spain, convoyed by the Spanish steamship Claudio Lopez.

BERNSTORFF HELD UP TILL WEDNESDAY

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 26.—It is not believe here that the liner Frederik VIII will be able to leave for Copenhagen before Wednesday. She spent today taking on coal. Her departure depends, it was stated, upon the completion of this work which is proceeding slowly.

THE CUNARD LINE STEAMSHIP LACONIA



The vessel, one of the largest in the transatlantic service, was sunk off the Irish coast today. The Laconia, a sister ship of the Franconia, is of 18,099 tons displacement, and is the biggest victim of the German submarine warfare since the new decree was announced. She sailed from New York to England February 18, carrying passengers, mail and cargo.

BRITISH AND GERMAN FLOTILLAS IN BATTLE

Carson Announces English Destroyers Are Undamaged. Teutons' Craft Shell England's Coast

LONDON, Feb. 26.—British destroyers met a German destroyer squadron between 11 o'clock and midnight Sunday night in a heavy engagement in the North Sea, Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty, announced in Common this afternoon.

"After a heavy engagement with guns and torpedoes our ships remained undamaged," he said. "The extent of the enemy damage is unknown.

"Another force of enemy destroyers shelled Broadstairs and Margate, but fled before our destroyers arrived on the scene."

U. S. FREIGHTER ORLEANS REACHES FRANCE SAFELY

Will Dock at Bordeaux Tomorrow. White Star Liner Lapland Arrives at Liverpool

PARIS, Feb. 26.

The American freighter Orleans has entered the Gironde River and will dock at Bordeaux tomorrow.

Her entry into the Gironde means she has successfully passed the danger of the German submarine zone.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.

The White Star liner Lapland arrived at Liverpool safely Sunday afternoon, a cable to the local offices of the line announced today.

The French liner Espagne arrived at Bordeaux at 6 p. m. last Friday, according to a cable received at the company's office here.

New Lawyers Admitted to Bar

The young lawyers sworn in by Court No. 1 and to whom certificates were issued by Clerk John L. Burns are John W. Hoffman, Jr., Walter E. Schembs, Walter H. Chapman, Thomas A. Logue, Francis Brearly, Thomas J. Marshall, Samuel Knox White, Walter Bernard Gibbons, C. Harrison Lund, Jay B. Leopold, Francis B. Mallon, Charles A. Donnelly, John A. Boyle, Arnold M. Blumberg and Julius J. Levis.

M'ADOO ASKS FUND FOR GLOUCESTER ALIEN STATION

WASHINTON, Feb. 26.—The Secretary of the Treasury in a communication to Congress today asked that the last appropriation for the completion of the immigration station at Gloucester, N. J., be increased to $250,000, making the limit of cost for building and sites $620,000.

SENATE HEARS STATE'S INCOME TAX PROTEST

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Resolutions of the Pennsylvania Legislature protesting against the inheritance tax and excess profit tax sections of the pending revenue measures were presented in the Senate today by Senator Penrose.

MAGISTRATE CALL'S RIGHT FOOT AMPUTATED

Magistrate Joseph Call's right foot was amputated just above the angle this afternoon at his home in an attempt to save the life of the Magistrate, who is suffering from blood poisoning. Following the operation, surgeons said it had been successful. Several weeks ago surgeons amputated the Magistrate's left leg at the knee.

SUGAR BILLED TO ENGLAND BURNS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Fire started today aboard the sugar-laden British ship Baysura at her pier in Brooklyn and did $100,000 damage to the cargo. The fire is believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion.

ITALIAN WAR LOAN TOTALS 2,200,000,000 LIRE

ROME, Feb. 26.—Official announcement was made today that subscriptions to the new Italian war loan total 2,200,000,000 lire, of which 470,000,000 is new money.

"CHIEF" BENDER EXONERATED

A Coroner's jury today exonerated "Chief" Charles A. Bender, 3515 North Judson street, from all blame in causing the death of John J. Curran, thirty-two years old, 1501 Fairmount avenue. Curran died February 15 in St. Joseph's Hospital from injuries suffered when he was knocked down by an automobile driven by the baseball pitcher.

UNCLE SAM LEARNS HOW TO MAKE ROQUEFORT CHEESE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—On the heels of an eight-year-old investigation, the Department of Agriculture announced today that it had discovered the secret of making Roquefort cheese. Department experts claim that they now can make better Roquefort than old man Roquefort himself. A reduction in Roquefort prices from eighty to twenty or thirty cents a pound is expected to result from the department's discovery.

LINE TO SOUTH AMERICA PLANNED HERE

A steamship line between this city and South Amercia will be inaugurated, according to an announcement made by the Luckenbach Steamship Company. Davis & Co., 124 Walnut street, are the local representatives, and the pioneer vessel, the American steamship Pleiades, will sail from Philadelphia about March 5 for Buenos Aires, Santos and Rio de Janeiro.

$135,000 SOUGHT HERE FOR AMERICAN AMBULANCE

Efforts to raise $135,000 for the American Ambulance Field Service in France have been started in Philadelphia by John H. McFadden, Jr., who has returned from two years' service at the front. Ambulances are needed to replace old machines, and it is hoped that the money will be raised in six weeks.

LACONIA SUNK; 7 AMERICANS ON U-BOAT VICTIM

18,099-Ton Liner Torpedoed Off the Coast of Ireland

ONE OUT OF 270 ON VESSEL KILLED

Cunarder Largest Prey of Renewed Submarine Warfare

CARRIED CONTRABAND

Vessel Bound From New York to Britain Also Bore Mails. Manned by British

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.

The Cunard Line officials here officially announced the known loss of one life in the destruction of the Laconia.

LONDON, Feb. 26.

The Laconia was torpedoed without warning.

LONDON, Feb. 26.

The 18,099-ton Cunarder Laconia fell victim today to the German submarine warfare, being torpedoed off the Irish coast. The vessel was en route from New York to England. There were seven Americans on board.

The Laconia is the biggest victim of the German submarine warfare since the new decree was announced.

The Laconia sailed from New York on February 18. She carried passengers, mail and cargo for Liverpool.

Two hundred and seventy passengers and crewsmen aboard were rescued.

The Cunarder was torpedoed Sunday night. Another steamship rescued the 270 passengers.

A statement this afternoon said that a majority of the survivors were expected to land at Queenstown and the others at Bantry, Ireland.

The American Consul at Queenstown reported the Laconia was sunk about 10 o'clock Sunday evening, and that 278 survivors were en route to Queenstown.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Six American citizens were aboard the Cunard liner Laconia when she was sunk, it was stated here this afternoon by the Cunard Line. Their names were not immediately available.

The Laconia was manned by British officers and a British crew. She carried contraband cargo, in addition to mails.

Her last trip from Liverpool ended here February 14 when she brought across thirty-seven passengers. She sailed again for Liverpool February 18.

Captain W. R. D. Irvine was in command of the liner. G. Bain was chief engineer; G. S. Kennedy, surgeon; W. Ballyn, chief steward.

CUBAN TROOPS MOVE AGAINST CAMAGUEY

Pujol Camps on Outskirts of Rebel Stronghold After Long and Tiring March

HAVANA, Feb. 26.—Government troops were encamped early today on the outskirts of Camaguey, the rebel stronghold where General Jose Gomez first took command of the revolutionists. An attack on the city by Colonel Pujol, commanding the Menocal forces, is momentarily expected.

The report of the taking of Camaguey last night was premature. The fall of the city was announced in the evening newspapers and caused much rejoicing in Government quarters. Shortly before midnight President Menocal succeeded in getting into telegraphic communication with Colonel Pujol and found that he was then ten miles from the city and moving forward steadily. It was necessary to repair railroad bridges burned by the rebels before reaching the city proper.

COP'S BIBLE KNOWLEDGE AIDS MOVING-PICTURE MAN

Comes to Defense of Operator Accused of Violating Law by Giving a Show on Sunday

Spectators in Central Police Station were interested by knowledge of the Bible displayed by Lieutenant Jeffries, of the Fifteenth and Locust streets station, who appeared as a witness in the case of Stanley B. Calhoun, 6919 North Tenth street, accused of operating a moving-picture machine on Sunday in White Hall, Fifteenth and Chestnut streets.

Calhoun was arrested on the complaint of the Rev. T. T. Mutchler, secretary of the Sunday Observance Association. Lieutenant Jeffries rose to the defense of Calhoun, telling the court that the pictures were of a Biblical nature, and that after the pictures were shown religious tracts was distributed among those in the audience. Jeffries revealed that he was a Bible student when he gave the court an accurate description of the pictures. He entertained the court with the story of the creation, and discussed Biblical history down to the birth of Christ. Magistrate Beaton said he could see no wrong in the pictures, and he released Calhoun in his own recognizance for a further hearing, so that the matter could be more thoroughly investigated.

Second Installment of "The Afterglow," Sequel to "Beyond the Great Oblivion," Appears in the Illustrated Section of This Issue