

AMERICAN VESSEL SUNK BY U-BOAT; SIXTEEN LOST

AGE FOR ARMY DRAFT WILL BE SETTLED SOON

Final Details of Selection Bill Now With Conferees

READY FOR WILSON'S SIGNATURE THIS WEEK

Question of Liquor Sales to Soldiers Also Will Be Threshed Out

ROOSEVELT STILL ISSUE

Legislation Before Congress for Prosecution of War

CONGRESS will take up this week the following bill to further the preparations for war with Germany: First. To punish acts of interference with foreign relations and the foreign commerce of the United States, better to enforce the criminal laws of the United States and to punish espionage.

U.S. NAVY OFFICER AND GUNNERS AMONG MISSING IN TORPEDOING SATURDAY OF MERCHANT CRAFT

Captain S. S. Harris, of Vacuum, Also Reported Dead—Three Jackies Rescued.

Ship Was Returning in Ballast to New York

LONDON, April 30.

The American steamship Vacuum was torpedoed and sunk Saturday, it was announced today. An American naval lieutenant in command of the gun crew, nine American naval gunners, the captain of the Vacuum and part of his crew were reported missing.

Those rescued included the chief mate and seventeen men in all. The survivors were attended to by the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society today.

NEW YORK, April 30.

Captain S. S. Harris, residing at Lempton, N. Y., was in command of the oil tanker Vacuum when she was sunk and Lieutenant Thomas, U. S. N., commanded the American navy gun crew aboard her, according to information obtained here today.

The Vacuum Oil Company, owners of the ship, today received the following message:

Vacuum torpedoed twenty-ninth, 140 miles west of Barra. Number one lifeboat with captain and others drowned. Number two with chief officer and following saved:

Simpson and Williams, engineers; Lingren, carpenter; Lotes, quartermaster; Witzon, Gissos, oilers; Parde, stoker; Byl Singros, Vimegepphan, seamen; Dia and Andrews, stewards; Hatton, wireless; William Orell and Nichola Hilson and Lasker, naval.

Captain Harris was in the one lifeboat reported lost, with the American bluejackets and their lieutenant, and other members of the Vacuum's crew still unaccounted for.

Unless the American naval lieutenant and his gun crew, now missing, are later reported rescued, they will be the first of America's fighting force to lose their lives in America's war with Germany. The naval lieutenant will be the first officer killed.

J. I. Epolucci, a boatswain's mate, U. S. N., is still missing from the Aztec torpedoing and he may be the first of America's fighting men to die.

At the offices of the Vacuum Company it was stated the Vacuum was a regular cargo boat, not an oil tanker as first reported. She had delivered a cargo taken on at New York at Liverpool and was returning home in ballast.

The cablegram received by the oil company and cabled advices indicated that a total of sixteen men, including Captain Harris and the American gun crew, were probably lost. The Vacuum's crew numbered thirty-four men and eighteen were reported landed in the reports from London. Fifteen members of the crew were Americans. With the gunners and the lieutenant in command the Americans aboard numbered twenty-five.

The oil tanker Vacuum was last in Philadelphia on August 28, last year, when she left the Point Breeze docks. She is owned by the Vacuum Oil Company, which has offices in the Brown Building. Twenty-eight men were carried in her crew.

The Vacuum was a 247-foot steam ship, with a tonnage of 2551 and developing 1350 horsepower. She was built at Ecorse, Mich., in 1912 and originally was known as the Bayamon. The name was changed to Vacuum in the latter part of 1916. New York was her home port.

At the Philadelphia offices of the owners it was said that the ship carried two guns mounted fore and aft. She had been in use in the traffic to Europe since 1914.

DEATH FOILS HIS PLOT TO MURDER PRESIDENT

Man Who Expired in Trenton Also Planned to Kill Roosevelt

TRENTON, April 30.

It was learned today that Charles G. Mueller, of Indianapolis, who fell dead of heart trouble at Barlow's Hotel last night, had been plotting to kill President Wilson, Roosevelt, Taft and United States Senator Tamm, according to letters found by a coroner's jury of Mercer County, on the body.

A loaded revolver was found in the dead man's pocket and his pocketbook contained many clippings reporting recent munitions plant explosions. The Federal authorities are tracing his movements in an effort to learn if he had confederates. Mueller came to Trenton Wednesday and registered at Barlow's Hotel.

Flags Stolen From House Front Three big American flags and ten small ones, which decorated the front of the home of James N. Johnson, 2217 Gray's avenue, were missing when Johnson opened his front door this morning. Only the brackets which held the flags were left. Johnson reported the loss to Lieutenant Ewing, of the Sixty-fifth street and Woodland avenue station, and at the police roll-call the day force was told to warn householders to keep an eye out for the safety of their flags. District Detectives Prints and Quigley were sent out to find the thief, who took the Johnson flags.

U. S. EMPLOYEE HELD ON TREASON CHARGES

Meat Inspector Said to Have Made Insulting Remarks About Flag

Treasonable statements said to have been made by James Sutton, a negro employed by the United States Government as meat inspector, caused several score employees of the packing firm of D. B. Martin, at Thirtieth and Market streets, to quit work this morning.

They said they would not work with a man who insulted the flag and defamed his country. News of the trouble reached the police and Sutton was arrested, with the result that the men went back to work.

When taken before Lieutenant of Detectives Scanlon, Sutton said he had not said anything, but later admitted that he might have made some rash statements during "the heat of the argument." Just what these were he refused to say. "Any man who says the things you are supposed to have said has one place only—the Morgue," remarked Scanlon. Scanlon referred to the fact that Sutton was alleged to have declared his intention of refusing to fight and, if forced to do so, of "laying down." He was locked up in a cell and will have a hearing this afternoon. He has been a meat inspector since last October and has been making inflammatory statements, according to complaints made by Dr. C. F. Keller, another inspector, for the last two weeks.

BRITISH STRIKE AT VPRES; PUSH SCARPE BATTLE

Struggle Virtually a Dead-lock as Germans Rush Reinforcements

FRENCH PREPARE BLOW

BERLIN (via London), April 30. Tremendous losses of British attacking troops were revealed in today's official statement. "It is estimated," the War Office declared, "that on Saturday the English losses were 6000 fallen and 1000 taken prisoners. Fifty machine guns were captured and ten tanks were destroyed."

LONDON, April 30. As an indication that the British offensive is not taking all the strength of the British army in the Arras-to-St. Quentin front, Field Marshal Haig staged a strong raid north of Ypres today.

"At night, north of Ypres, a successful raid was carried out," the British command-in-chief reported. "Eighteen prisoners and a machine gun were captured. Ypres is nearly fifty miles north of the Arras sector where the British push was still powerfully exerted against the remnants of the northernmost end of the 'Wotan' line."

"Between Monchy-le-Preux and the Scarpe, in a small operation, we took a few prisoners and destroyed several tanks," Haig reported of the fighting in this section. The fighting in the rounded sector in front of Gavrelle, Roux, Monchy and Guiseppe was apparently in a "stalemate" today, the armies on both sides being more or less deadlocked.

With yesterday's captures of German positions around Oppy, the British forces have now reached broken, irregular ground where the natural advantages of position are with the enemy. Every dispatch from the front today likewise mentioned the extraordinary number of fresh troops which the Germans were interposing and the violence of their counter-attacks.

The slopes and ridges of the Scarpe valley offer unusually excellent hiding places for German machine-gun crews and the German positions along the front line are heights are strategically situated for pouring fire down on the advancing British.

Front dispatches today spoke of new German long-range cannon now brought up and put into action against the British drive. The intensity of the German fire has likewise increased, although as yet it does not anywhere approach the violence of the British deluge of steel.

PARIS, April 30. Forecasting a resumption of General Nivelle's offensive.

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BRITISH DEMAND NAVAL CHANGES

Public, Led by Northcliffe, Insists on Reforms in Admiralty

WANT TRUTH ON U-BOATS

LONDON, April 30. The British Admiralty was under a blast of public clamor for rehabilitation today.

Lord Northcliffe, the man who led the crusade in 1915 that resulted in the great shake-up of the War Office and Lloyd George's appointment as Minister of Munitions, was asked today's movement for reorganization of the naval branch. Press and public appeared to agree with him in the liveliest fashion.

The Admiralty is under attack from three directions. First, there is widespread criticism of its failure more successfully to combat the German submarine menace; second, the Admiralty is blamed for insufficient coast protection, permitting a number of German destroyer raids on seacoast cities; third, and probably most important, the public is clamoring for a more complete disclosure of all facts as to the seriousness of the submarine campaign and Allied losses.

QUICK NEWS

BASEBALL SCORES

BOSTON PHILLIES

ATHLETICS 1 0 BOSTON 1 3

E. Johnson and Schaug; Ruth and Thomas; McCormick and Connolly.

COTTON SHIP BELIEVED SUNK

NEW YORK, April 30.—That a steamship carrying cotton had been sunk by a submarine or mine was indicated by cables from Liverpool, which reported covering in the English market against cotton sunk.

BILL ENABLING ALLIES TO RECRUIT HERE BLOCKED

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The Administration bill authorizing the Allies to recruit their subjects now residing in the United States was at least temporarily blocked today by Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, who objected to immediate consideration of the measure "because adequate measures haven't been taken to assure safe passage of any one on the high seas."

GERMAN AIRMEN SHELL FIVE FRENCH CITIES

PARIS, April 30.—The War Office announced today that German air raids on Dunkirk, Nancy and Belfort had failed to inflict any casualties. Chalons and Epervy were also bombarded by German airmen, with several civilian victims reported.

ITALIAN MISSION TO U. S. SAILS, PARIS HEARS

PARIS, April 30.—An Italian mission has already sailed for the United States, says a dispatch from Rome today.

CHINESE PARLIAMENT TO DECIDE ON WAR SOON

PEKIN, April 30.—The question of China's entry into the war, which has already been recommended by the conference of military governors, will be put up to Parliament within about ten days, according to reports current today. There was a reception at the presidential palace on Sunday, at which President Li and Dr. Paul Reisch, United States Minister to China, both spoke. Doctor Reisch received the military governors and spoke of the close ties between the American and Chinese Governments. There was a dinner at the American College on Sunday, at which Dr. Wu Ting-fang, former Chinese Ambassador to the United States, spoke.

BRAZIL PROCLAIMS NONINTERVENTION POLICY

BUENOS AIRES, April 30.—The Brazilian Government, despite its diplomatic rupture with Germany, has issued a proclamation announcing it will not intervene in the war between the United States and Germany, says a dispatch from Rio Janeiro today. The news came as a big surprise.

ALLIED AIRMEN SHELL FOE'S BASE AT ZEEBRUGGE

AMSTERDAM, April 30.—Allied airmen bombarded Zeebrugge, the German's naval base in Belgium, on Sunday, says a dispatch to this city today. The aviators dropped many projectiles despite violent fire against them from German high-angle guns. It is learned that during the preceding air attack two harbor walls at Zeebrugge were smashed by bombs.

AMMONIA AT SUPPLEE'S IMPERILS SIXTY-FIVE

Men and Girls Almost Overcome When Broken Pipe Releases Fumes

Sixty men and five girls were imperiled and a horse was killed today by ammonia fumes when a pipe line broke, releasing 1000 gallons of ammonia from a tank at the Supplee Alderley Dairy plant, 2334 Market street.

The one-and-a-half-inch supply pipe, leading from the main building to a four-story concrete building being built in the rear, was snapped in two, supposedly by a plank falling from the roof of the addition. Instantly a dense cloud of gray mist arose, enveloping the plant and spreading for a radius of three squares. Choking and coughing the fifty workmen in the addition scattered for safety. The employees in the offices, including five girl stenographers and clerks, ran to the street as the average-growing cloud of ammonia vapor invaded the building.

HASTEN GUARDS TO WAR FRONT, PLEA OF ENVOYS

First of Troops to Leave Soon if Washington Agrees

HUNDREDS ON EACH SHIP

Mission Would Not Stop Food Transport to Move Big Bodies of Men

WASHINGTON, April 30. It will be only a matter of a few days before the United States National Guard units now mobilized in this country are on their way to the western European front, and not less than six weeks before they are actually embattled with the Germans, if the Allies' urgent recommendations to the United States Government today meet the approval of the Administration.

It became known today that the Allies want American troops in batches of several hundred to go at once to Europe aboard every ship that sails.

This will obviate necessity for the concentration of great masses of men in one place and the crippling of food and mail services to carry them.

FOR TRAINING IN FRANCE The Allies want mobilized National Guard units which were at the border, because they feel these men were equipped by their border work to go at once to the western front and train within sound of the big guns so they will be tempered for battle in not longer than five weeks.

These American troops, the Allies have assured this Government, will not be fused with French, English, Russian, Indian or other troops, but will fight an American unit—under their own flag.

The Allies' recommendations today were intended to win this country away from the idea that before American troops go abroad they must be trained here for months.

They pointed to the failure of the one and one-half years' training system of Canada.

Canadian troops, after this long course, went to Europe in large units and, while considered ready to fight, had to go through the few weeks' intensive training within sound of the guns just the same.

MUST BE SPECIALIZED The Allies' idea is to take small American units and specialize them, as must be done in this war.

This specialized course is vitally necessary, the Allies pointed out, because they can develop bomb squad, snipers, sappers, trench experts and other highly specialized groups from each unit in a few weeks.

The failure of the Canadians after their year and a half of training came in the fact that there was not a bomber, sapper, sniper or other expert among them. They had been drilled to open or partially covered mass battle fronts.

These American units would be sandwiched in on the fighting front between seasoned fighting groups and would be gradually absorbed into the front line of attack.

"Not only would this help our fighting strength," said a high Allied commissioner today, "but it would have a most depressing moral effect on the Germans along the entire front."

"When the urgent, immediate need for American fighting men at the front has been thrashed out and is more thoroughly understood by the American Congress," said the commissioner, "I am sure it will desire to hear a complete statement of the case by Viviani and Joffre."

The importance of this Allied declaration gathered credence from today's activities among American Administration officials.

BAKER SEES PRESIDENT Secretary of War Baker, the man who would have active charge of dispatching American troops to Europe, was in conference with President Wilson at the White House just before Viviani arrived.

The present attitude of the Administration, Secretary Baker said, is in response to the actual dispatch of troops to France until the conscription bill should actually become law.

The visit of Viviani and Joffre to the United States Senate was postponed for the time being for the same reason, it is believed.

COURTROOM "WEEPS" WHEN ONIONS GIVE TESTIMONY

Strong Evidence Brings Tears to Spectators' Eyes as Thief Gets Ten Days

Without the least warning, Andrew Rennie this morning sneaked up on a case of onions standing in front of the Philadelphia Cold Storage Company, Thirtieth and Ludlow streets, hoisted them upon his shoulder and trotted away. Policeman Conway saw the theft and dashed after Rennie, who promptly unshipped the onions in the middle of the street and dashed on unimpeded. Conway finally captured him at Thirty-first and Market streets. He led him back through a lane of curious folk and gathered the onions up.

When Rennie was arraigned before Magistrate Harris at his office the following dialogue ensued:

Magistrate—"I'll give you ten days."

Rennie—"But, Judge, what have you got against me?"

Magistrate (glancing at the box of onions)—"A very strong case."

"It was the time for laughter—but the room was full of tears." Two cents at music store.

THE WEATHER

For Philadelphia and vicinity: Generally cloudy, with probably some showers late tonight and on Tuesday. Change in temperature; gentle winds.

LENGTH OF DAY Sun rises... 6:52 a.m. Moon sets... 8:22 p.m. Dew point... 62° F. High water... 8:27 a.m. Low water... 2:52 a.m. High tide... 8:11 a.m. Low tide... 2:46 a.m. TEMPERATURE AT 8:00 P.M. 81 79 77 75 73 71 69 67 65 63 61 59 57 55 53 51 49 47 45 43 41 39 37 35 33 31 29 27 25 23 21 19 17 15 13 11 9 7 5 3 1 -1 -3 -5 -7 -9 -11 -13 -15 -17 -19 -21 -23 -25 -27 -29 -31 -33 -35 -37 -39 -41 -43 -45 -47 -49 -51 -53 -55 -57 -59 -61 -63 -65 -67 -69 -71 -73 -75 -77 -79 -81 -83 -85 -87 -89 -91 -93 -95 -97 -99 -101 -103 -105 -107 -109 -111 -113 -115 -117 -119 -121 -123 -125 -127 -129 -131 -133 -135 -137 -139 -141 -143 -145 -147 -149 -151 -153 -155 -157 -159 -161 -163 -165 -167 -169 -171 -173 -175 -177 -179 -181 -183 -185 -187 -189 -191 -193 -195 -197 -199 -201 -203 -205 -207 -209 -211 -213 -215 -217 -219 -221 -223 -225 -227 -229 -231 -233 -235 -237 -239 -241 -243 -245 -247 -249 -251 -253 -255 -257 -259 -261 -263 -265 -267 -269 -271 -273 -275 -277 -279 -281 -283 -285 -287 -289 -291 -293 -295 -297 -299 -301 -303 -305 -307 -309 -311 -313 -315 -317 -319 -321 -323 -325 -327 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-729 -731 -733 -735 -737 -739 -741 -743 -745 -747 -749 -751 -753 -755 -757 -759 -761 -763 -765 -767 -769 -771 -773 -775 -777 -779 -781 -783 -785 -787 -789 -791 -793 -795 -797 -799 -801 -803 -805 -807 -809 -811 -813 -815 -817 -819 -821 -823 -825 -827 -829 -831 -833 -835 -837 -839 -841 -843 -845 -847 -849 -851 -853 -855 -857 -859 -861 -863 -865 -867 -869 -871 -873 -875 -877 -879 -881 -883 -885 -887 -889 -891 -893 -895 -897 -899 -901 -903 -905 -907 -909 -911 -913 -915 -917 -919 -921 -923 -925 -927 -929 -931 -933 -935 -937 -939 -941 -943 -945 -947 -949 -951 -953 -955 -957 -959 -961 -963 -965 -967 -969 -971 -973 -975 -977 -979 -981 -983 -985 -987 -989 -991 -993 -995 -997 -999 -1001 -1003 -1005 -1007 -1009 -1011 -1013 -1015 -1017 -1019 -1021 -1023 -1025 -1027 -1029 -1031 -1033 -1035 -1037 -1039 -1041 -1043 -1045 -1047 -1049 -1051 -1053 -1055 -1057 -1059 -1061 -1063 -1065 -1067 -1069 -1071 -1073 -1075 -1077 -1079 -1081 -1083 -1085 -1087 -1089 -1091 -1093 -1095 -1097 -1099 -1101 -1103 -1105 -1107 -1109 -1111 -1113 -1115 -1117 -1119 -1121 -1123 -1125 -1127 -1129 -1131 -1133 -1135 -1137 -1139 -1141 -1143 -1145 -1147 -1149 -1151 -1153 -1155 -1157 -1159 -1161 -1163 -1165 -1167 -1169 -1171 -1173 -1175 -1177 -1179 -1181 -1183 -1185 -1187 -1189 -1191 -1193 -1195 -1197 -1199 -1201 -1203 -1205 -1207 -1209 -1211 -1213 -1215 -1217 -1219 -1221 -1223 -1225 -1227 -1229 -1231 -1233 -1235 -1237 -1239 -1241 -1243 -1245 -1247 -1249 -1251 -1253 -1255 -1257 -1259 -1261 -1263 -1265 -1267 -1269 -1271 -1273 -1275 -1277 -1279 -1281 -1283 -1285 -1287 -1289 -1291 -1293 -1295 -1297 -1299 -1301 -1303 -1305 -1307 -1309 -1311 -1313 -1315 -1317 -1319 -1321 -1323 -1325 -1327 -1329 -1331 -1333 -1335 -1337 -1339 -1341 -1343 -1345 -1347 -1349 -1351 -1353 -1355 -1357 -1359 -1361 -1363 -1365 -1367 -1369 -1371 -1373 -1375 -1377 -1379 -1381 -1383 -1385 -1387 -1389 -1391 -1393 -1395 -1397 -1399 -1401 -1403 -1405 -1407 -1409 -1411 -1413 -1415 -1417 -1419 -1421 -1423 -1425 -1427 -1429 -1431 -1433 -1435 -1437 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