

HUNDREDS KILLED WHEN CITY IS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED IN BLAST OF U. S. MUNITIONS

FEAR SAFETY OF TRANSPORTS; CITY MASS OF WRECKAGE

American Ammunition Ship Collides With Companion Vessel in Rockingham Harbor During Severe Storm; Explosion Which Follows Kills Crews; Wrecks Hundreds of Homes, Destroys Communication With Outside World; City of Halifax Reported to Be Burning; Immediate Steps Taken to Aid Heavily Afflicted People

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6. — Scores of people have been killed, hundreds of buildings destroyed and a portion of Halifax set on fire by an explosion which occurred after the collision of an American ammunition ship and another vessel at Rockingham, according to telephone messages reaching here this morning.

It is reported that the American munition steamer was moving out from her pier, and was rammed broadside by another vessel. Instantly there was a tremendous explosion, which destroyed the two ships and killed their crew.

The concussion resulting caused the roof of the railway depot at North street to collapse, while all the warehouses on the water front for a mile and a half were damaged.

The force of the concussion was so great that freight cars were blown off railway tracks along a stretch of nearly two miles.

Messages asking for fire engines and fire fighting apparatus, doctors and nurses, hospital supplies, etc., were received from Halifax by a number of localities in Nova Scotia.

Rush Aid to Scene of Accident At Truro, Windsor and here the city councils met this morning and decided to take immediate steps to render aid to the afflicted people at Halifax.

The damage to the Western Union and Canadian Pacific Telegraph Companies and Nova Scotia Telephone Company is so complete it is likely to be days before wire communication with points outside Halifax can be restored.

Rockingham is located well within Halifax harbor, at the mouth of Bedford basin. It is at the northwest portion of the harbor and since the war has been used as an examining station for Amherst.

The whole northern section of Halifax is a mass of wreckage and fires have broken over in a dozen parts of the city, according to reports received shortly after noon.

The area of destruction covers several miles. The Canadian government depot used by the Canadian Pacific railway is described as having been entirely destroyed, while a big government repair plant at Willow Park in the northwestern section of the city is wrecked.

The vessels collided soon after 8.30 this morning and it is presumed the munition ship was hit in the stokehold. Instantly flames were seen to pour from the vessel, and a big effort to make an effort to get the fire fighting apparatus to work when the explosion suddenly occurred.

The Queens Hotel on Hollis street, near Sackville street marks approximately the southern limit of the devastated area, it is reported.

The berth of the Canadian cruiser Niobe was near the area affected but no reports have reached here as to whether the ship or her crew were injured.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 6.—A large part of Halifax, N. S., is in flames.

THE WEATHER For Harrisburg and vicinity: Generally cloudy to-night and Friday; not much change in temperature, lowest to-night about 28 degrees.

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Cloudy to-night and Friday, not much change in temperature; moderate northeast winds.

River The Susquehanna river and all its branches will fall slowly or remain nearly stationary. A stage of about 4.0 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Friday morning.

General Conditions Cloudy and unsettled weather prevails over the greater part of the United States, this morning.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 32. Sun: Rises, 7:20 a. m.; sets, 4:33 p. m.

Moon: Last quarter, 11:50 a. m. to-day.

River Stage: 4 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 42. Lowest temperature, 30. Mean temperature, 36. Normal temperature, 35.

TWO TORCHES



HUNS TAKE 11,000 PRISONERS IN ITALY CLAIM OF BERLIN

Large Forces of Reserves Hurried to Cambrai Area Convince British That New Effort Will Be Made To Wipe Out Salient

Berlin, Dec. 6.—Eleven thousand Italians have been captured by the Austro-Germans in their new offensive on the mountainous front of Northern Italy, it was officially announced by the German war office.

In the Cambrai sector and on the northern Italian front, the enemy has resumed his efforts to dislodge the allied troops.

WOMAN AT LARGE WITH SMALLPOX; EPIDEMIC FEARED

Danger Increased as Victim Has Few Marks on Her Face

Suffering from smallpox, Susie Jones, colored, 1121 North Seventh street, who was under quarantine at that place until arrangements were made to remove her to the contagious disease hospital, escaped this morning and is now at large either in the city or some nearby town.

ONLY 7 DAYS left for men between the ages of 21 and 31 years to enlist in the war against the Hun.

Reports reaching here early this afternoon said it was feared several scores of people lost their lives when the railway station at Halifax collapsed.

BROWN CALLS ON COURTS TO FREE THE ATTORNEYS

Asks That Court Sessions Be Curtailed to Let Lawyers Help the Drafted Men

OF PRIME IMPORTANCE Adjutant General Beary Asks For Complete Data About All Police Forces in State

Attorney General Francis Shunk Brown to-day sent a letter to all judges in the state asking if they would not shorten court sessions and grant continuances of cases for the next thirty days to enable the attorneys of Pennsylvania to give aid to registrants under the draft law.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Coal jobbers and retailers will not be permitted to charge the authorized 25 cents a ton advance on anthracite, effective December 1, for stocks in their possession on that date.

New Increase Not Permitted on Coal Now in Local Yards

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WAR RESOLUTION TO PASS TOMORROW

Washington, Dec. 5.—With a formal report from the Foreign Affairs Committee the resolution to declare war on Austria-Hungary was to-day brought into the House of Representatives.

U. S. TROOPS FOR ITALY

Washington, Dec. 6.—The House Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the war resolution declares the United States probably soon will send troops to Italy.

BRITISH ADVANCE LINES

London, Dec. 6.—The British have advanced slightly their line southwest of La Vacquerie on the Cambrai front, it is announced officially.

CONGRESS MAY SETTLE R. R. TANGLE

Washington, Dec. 6.—Railroad presidents composing the railroads war board to-day informed Chairman Newlands, head of the congressional committee dealing with transportation problems, that if Congress removed the legal prohibitions which forbid unification of the roads for the war emergency, government operation would be unnecessary.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Richard D. Baker, York, and Lillie G. Mower, Wormleysburg; Charles S. Jolly, Gettysburg, and Mary E. Sears, Harrisburg; Ray Franklin and Viola Maddox, Harrisburg.