

WEATHER FORECAST.

For North and South Carolina— Fair tonight and Thursday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 18, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

ROARING GUNS THRILL NEW ENGLAND

HEAVY FIRING HEARD TODAY; MAY BE FIGHT

Several Coast Guard Stations in Cape Cod Section Flash The Startling News

GUNS OF HEAVY CALIBRE IN USE

The Firing at Point Just Outside Massachusetts Bay— Too Rapid For Salutes. May Be Engagement.

(By Associated Press.) Boston, Mass., April 18.—Three coast guard stations, at Race Point, Peaked Hill bar and High Head, reported that they heard heavy guns being fired at 9:41 a. m. today north of the stations, in off Provincetown.

Stations 12 and 67 reported that at 9:13 a. m. they heard north from the stations about 15 guns, and after 15 minute intervals 15 more were heard fired in quick succession.

Stations 33 and 68, at 9:30, reported the firing of six heavy guns, and at 10:20 several more in rapid succession—General direction north.

Stations 34 and 70 report three guns in quick succession and firing at intervals since. General direction northeast to north of station. Heard quite plainly at times.

The firing apparently came from a point just outside of Massachusetts bay at the end of Cape Cod. The reports to the navy yard did not state that any vessels had been sighted.

Navy officials here explained that the firing probably indicated that a naval engagement was in progress.

Heard Off Cape Cod.—Heavy firing was heard off the tip of Cape Cod today. The regularity of the shots led to the suggestion that it might have been an exchange of salutes by naval vessels, although it was stated that vessels on active duty are not permitted to thus reveal their positions.

Department Report.—Washington, April 18.—A report from the Cape Cod coast guard station forwarded to the navy by the Boston naval district commandant says there was heavy firing this morning at sea north of the station. Heavy guns were heard in rapid succession. No explanation of the firing was obtainable when the report was transmitted.

Three coast guard stations in the Cape Cod region joined in the report saying that the firing was heard at 9:41 o'clock this morning. All agreed that the sound indicated the use of heavy guns fired in rapid succession.

Sent a Thrill Through People.—Boston, Mass., April 18.—Reports of heavy gunfire at the entrance of Massachusetts bay sent a thrill along the coast today. Three coast guard stations on Cape Cod successively reported to the navy yard here that they had counted distinct and repeated firing from the north and northeast off the tip of the cape.

It was believed at the navy yard that American vessels were engaged with the enemy.

No warship was sighted by the three stations and after 30 minutes the firing ceased.

It was suggested that allied patrol ships might have come up with friendly warships and salutes exchanged. However, naval men could not understand warships on active duty betraying their location through naval etiquette.

Attempts to learn something definite failed. Maritime steps were taken to meet any emergency.

The first report reached Lieutenant E. G. Blakesie, in charge of the radio and gunnery department of the naval district from Naval Station No. 33, at Provincetown. It read: "At 9:15 a. m., in direction northeast by north, 15 guns heard in quick succession. After an interval of 15 minutes, 15 more guns were heard." A report from Station No. 33, at Race Point, directly on the tip of the cape, followed quickly. It read: "At 9:30 heavy firing of guns in quick succession heard due north. Several more guns heard 10:20."

FREIGHTER CHASED BY SUBMARINE

Letter Disguised by Masts and Canvas Superstructure as a Sailing Ship.

(By Associated Press.) New York, April 18.—A German submarine disguised as a sailing ship, carrying three masts was sighted by the British steamship Southerndown on April 4 when about 300 miles west of Lisbon, and for two hours the British freighter was chased, escaping capture and destruction through her superior speed, according to officers of the Southerndown on arrival of the vessel today at an American port.

The submarine, it is believed, was recognized as an enemy craft when she approached within about one mile. What appeared to be a false superstructure of canvas surmounted by the masts was on her decks and it was cleared away to enable a deck gun to get into action that her true identity was disclosed; the glistening hull of the rounded deck being plainly seen through glasses. Full speed was crowded on the engines of the freighter and for more than an hour the race was about even; then the steamer slowly drew away. For some reason unknown to officers of the ship the submarine did not fire on her.

Yesterday when near the American coast, the officers said, the United States cruiser Birmingham came up and on signal the Southerndown stopped. An officer and an armed guard came on board from the American warship and established the identity of the Southerndown before she was allowed to proceed.

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SAW PERISCOPE OF SUBMARINE

Men On Board The Destroyer Smith Plainly Beheld It.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 18.—A periscope of a submarine running submerged was sighted by the deck officer, quartermaster and deck watch of the destroyer Smith early yesterday morning just before the wake of a torpedo was seen crossing the destroyer's bows.

This information was contained in a radio report from the commander of the Smith received today at the Navy Department. Navy officials said this confirms the report of the presence of a German submarine in American waters.

The report from the officer said the periscope was moving on a course parallel to that of the destroyer. The torpedo crossed the bows of the Smith at a distance of thirty yards, as reported yesterday, and today's statement added that all of the men on the ship who saw it were experienced torpedo men.

The officer on watch on the Smith reported that the periscope was distinctly visible at a distance of 300 yards from the ship. The quartermaster and the members of the gun crew agreed in this report.

The Commercial Cable Company today announced that French, English and Spanish are the authorized languages for use in cables to and from the Philippines. Code addresses or signatures are not allowed. Messages must be fully addressed and signed.

No citizens at Highland Light or other points nearby could be found who heard gunfire, but the reports were taken very seriously at the navy yard, where the feeling was that there had been a battle off the coast.

FRENCH CONTINUE DRIVING AGAINST TEUTONIC ENEMY

Greatest Battle Since The Marne Continues to Rage Furiously.

FRENCH TAKE MANY GERMAN PRISONERS

Occupy More Important Ground and Still Pushing On—Over Fourteen Thousand Germans Captured in Past Two Days.

Continuing their great offensive along the Aisne and in the Champagne, the French have made further important gains. More than 14,000 prisoners have been taken in the two days of the attack. Twelve cannon, including three of large calibre, were among the large quantities of war material captured.

The battle, the greatest since the battle of the Marne, and considered a logical continuance of that struggle, after an interval of more than two years, developed during last night's heavy fighting in the region northeast of Soissons, where General Nivelle's troops made their most notable progress.

Pushing far north of the Aisne, the French completed their occupation of Chivy, east of the Oise-Aisne canal, and pressed on to Bray-en-Laonnois, which was entered by French patrols. On the Aisne farther west, they occupied the village of Chavenne. To the east of this region several fortified positions were wrested from the Germans in the neighborhood of Ville-Au-Bols, three miles southeast of Craonne, and on the main highway leading northwest from Rheims.

Momentarily halting in the Champagne district to organize the positions, the French were attacked in the process by the Germans. Three counter attacks were delivered at Mont Camille, ten miles southeast of Rheims. All these German reactions were beaten off with heavy German losses.

While the French are delivering their heavy blows in the Aisne-Champagne battle, they are organizing their forces for a renewal of the struggle in the Arras region. The process of envelopment is being continued at Lens and the similar operation at St. Quentin is registering progress.

In their operations northwest of St. Quentin, General Haig's forces last night straightened out their line by an advance of more than a mile, capturing the village of Villiers-Guislain, and made further progress east of Epehy toward the St. Quentin-Cambrai railway, opposite La Catelet. They also improved their position in the vicinity of Lagnicourt, north of the Bapaume-Cambrai road, which the Germans made a desperate but vain attempt to hold after entering it in their attack on a six-mile front last Saturday.

An Important Success.—Paris, April 18.—5:45 a. m.—The latest French victory, while on a small scale than that of Monday, is an equally important success. Both of the sections attacked had been left alone hitherto on account of the exceptional natural strength of the German positions. The French command held that an assault could only be successfully undertaken when overwhelming resources had been accumulated and the general situation was favorable.

The general who commands the armies of the right center had been planning the attack for several weeks and had left nothing to chance. Everything was provided for and the chiefs under him had nothing to do but follow on August 29.

(Continued on Page Two)

ALIEN ENEMIES IN CERTAIN LIMITS

Must Move Residences—Those Found With Certain Articles to be Arrested.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 18.—All alien enemies residing within one-half mile of a fort, camp, aircraft station, government or naval vessel, navy yard, factory or workshop for the manufacture of munitions, are required to remove prior to June 1, under penalty of summary arrest, under instructions issued today by the Attorney General to United States marshals. Certain exceptions may be made within well defined limitations. This carries out the terms of the President's proclamation.

Allien enemies found with forbidden articles in their possession after April 24, shall be arrested, except in cases where the marshal shall be satisfied they are not dangerous to public safety.

Allien enemies who tear down, mutilate, abuse, desecrate, or insult the flag are to be regarded as "a danger to the public peace," and summarily arrested.

MANY SCIENTISTS LIST FOR THE WAR

(By United Press.) Washington, April 18.—Five thousand scientists, engineers and skilled mechanics have been listed by the civil service in the war.

President Wilson has conferred with John A. McIlhenny, president of the commission, relative to the quick mobilization of the country's scientific men. Arrangements have been made to speed up examinations for such applicants. No general relaxation of requirements, however, is said to be contemplated.

(Continued on Page Two)

PRESIDENT NOW PRESSING HIS CONSCRIPTION MEASURE WITH GREAT FORCE BEFORE CONGRESS

NO LIQUOR SALES AFTER ONE O'CLOCK

Order to This Effect Issued by Mayor of New York City, Effective First of May.

(By Associated Press.) New York, April 18.—War will soon cast its pall over the gay night life of New York city. An order issued by Mayor Mitchell, to take effect May 1, will stop the sale of liquor at 1 o'clock in the morning. All night licenses held by saloons, hotels, roof gardens, restaurants and cabaret places will be canceled for the duration of the war.

The Mayor took this action after a conference with hotel and restaurant proprietors, who were virtually unanimous in its support. The Mayor has requested the clubs to adhere to the order and received assurances that many of the leading organizations will do so.

NAVAL REVOLT IN PERU CHECKED

(By United Press.) Lima, Peru, April 18.—Charges that a number of important officers were implicated in a plot for a naval revolt are under investigation by the Peruvian government today.

The conspiracy is said to have been hatched in retaliation for the arrest of certain naval commanders. The ministry marine gained an inkling of the situation and promptly dismantled the guns on the warships besides disabling the vessel's engines by removing essential parts of each which were locked up in the arsenal under heavy guard.

RESIDENCE WRECKED BY BOMB EXPLOSION

(By Associated Press.) Petersburg, Va., April 18.—The home of A. B. Cizsk, in Chesterfield county, one and a half miles north of this city, was destroyed by an explosion last night at a few minutes after 11 o'clock. The explosion was of unknown origin. It was very heavy, practically demolishing the two-story, eleven-room building, and was heard by many in this city, producing excitement. The Cizsk family was asleep at the time, but was unhurt, save for minor injuries. Petersburg police were rushed to the scene and bloodhounds are being used in an effort to trail the bomb placer, if, as supposed, that was the cause of the explosion. Cizsk is a Bohemian farmer, long a resident of the locality and highly respected. He had not the faintest idea as to the origin of the explosion, as he had no explosive in the house and has no enemies.

SELECTIVE DRAFT PROPER METHOD

Governor Bickett Goes on Record as Advocate of This Means of Raising Army.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., April 18.—Governor Bickett strongly champions today the selective draft system of raising an army, and answering the New York American's telegram relative to the selective draft, which Mr. Hearst has instructed all his papers to advocate, he said:

"Equal rights entail equal duties. But men there be who boldly assert their rights, and shamefully forget their duties. A decent respect for the principle of equality of right and of responsibility demands that in providing an army for the common defense selection should be made upon the basis of a common liability. No sane person would propose to finance the war with volunteer subscriptions. Even in times of war money must be accorded the equal protection of the law. But the volunteer system of raising an army works a tragic discrimination against manhood. The flower of our youth present their bodies as a living sacrifice to their country, while baser breeds remain at home and propagate the race. The burning injustice of such a system is surpassed only by its nauseating stupidity. Men should be selected for service upon the basis of natural fitness. To be so called to the colors ought, and when properly understood, will, be considered a Nation's stamp of distinction."

NAIL YOUR NATION'S FLAG TO YOUR PLOW

And Work For Your Country as You Would Fight For it is Georgia Farmers' Slogan

(By Associated Press.) Ocala, Fla., April 18.—"Nail a flag to your plow and work for your country as you would fight for her," is the slogan adopted by farmers of Ben Hill and Irwin counties. Preparations are under way by a committee of safety of the two counties to furnish the flags, following a mass meeting here last night, at which South Georgia farmers were urged to produce larger food crops.

BERLIN STRIKERS GRANTED DEMANDS

(By Associated Press.) London, April 18.—A Berlin dispatch to the Politiken of Copenhagen as forwarded to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that work has been resumed in most of the Berlin factories.

The Vossische Zeitung, of Berlin, says that as conditions of returning to work the strikers demanded a sufficient supply of bread and potatoes proper distribution of food and a guarantee of the promised Prussian electoral reform.

ANOTHER SPANISH STEAMER TORPEDOED

(By Associated Press.) Madrid, April 18.—(Via Paris, 1:30 p. m.)—The Spanish steamship Tom Pom has been torpedoed and sunk without warning. Eighteen lives were lost.

It is expected that news of this occurrence will further inflame public feeling in Spain.

The Tom Pom was 2,400 tons gross, and was owned in Bilbao.

Recent news dispatches from Spain said that much excitement was produced by the torpedoing of the Spanish steamer, San Fulgencio. The Spanish government sent an emphatic protest to Germany.

Fight Narrows Down to Tug Between Conscription and Volunteer

BILL WILL REACH THE SENATE TODAY

House Military Committee Favors Volunteer Method First—President Does Not Want Delay and Prepares to Show Why—Opposition Mostly in the House.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 18.—The House Military Committee today adopted this afternoon by a vote of 13 to 8.

Washington, April 18.—The administration bill to raise a big army mainly by selective conscription was ready to be reported to the Senate today by the Military committee, and all the force of the administration will be employed to urge its early passage in both Houses.

The President and his advisers regard further delay in passing the bill as threatening a serious handicap in the war with Germany, and efforts probably will be made to force the fight of opponents of conscription into the open so the public may judge the merit of their contentions.

The strongest objection to the conscription feature comes from House Democrats who favor a volunteer system. To these the administration is prepared to point out that the army general staff plan already provides for absorbing 700,000 volunteers into the regular army and National Guard for the period of the war.

The Senate Military committee before reporting the bill today prepared to take a vote on Senator McKellar's amendment authorizing the President to call 500,000 volunteers in addition to those who might be obtained by draft or through the Army and National Guard. Little hope was entertained that the amendment would be approved. The committee yesterday voted favorably on the selective draft provision.

Meantime the bill including the conscription provision was approved today by the Senate Military committee, ten to seven.

Opponents of selective conscription plan got the upper hand in the House Military committee today, voted 12 to 8 to have the new Army bill carry a provision to first try to raise the new force by volunteers.

While the two committees were acting, President Wilson was at the capitol conferring with Senate leaders on the administration war measures, particularly the army bill, espionage bill and rivers and harbors bill.

The Senate committee amended the army bill so as to bar liquor from all camps where the new army is to be trained. Another would exempt persons engaged in agriculture and in war industries from service in the army.

The President told Senators he would consent to no compromise because the War Department experts after careful examination and discussion, had decided that selective conscription was the only effective way of raising a strong army.

The administration expects the army bill to be pushed to passage promptly in the Senate. Having passed the Senate, the measure is expected to receive more prompt and favorable consideration in the House.

The President was assured that the majority of House Republicans were supporting his plans.

Rates on imported blackstrap molasses from Gulf ports and on domestic blackstrap from New Orleans and Louisiana producing points to Chicago and points taking the same rates and to Milwaukee, were sustained today by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

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