THE WEATHER
Showers Saturday; Sunday fair, showers west portion.

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AMERICAN SOLDIERS GO DOWN WITH SHIP

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BRITISH TRANSPORT MOLDAVIA IS TORPEDOED AND SUNK; FIFTY-SIX UNITED STATES TROOPS MISSING

Men Probably Killed By Explosion of the Torpedo Which Struck Amidships.

SUNK THURSDAY MORNING

Attacking Submarine Not Sighted By the Lookout Until the Ship Was Hit.

ALL OF CREW ESCAPED

The British Admiralty Statement Gives Few Details.

London, May 24.—The British armed merchant troopship Moldavia, with American troops on board, has been torpedoed and sunk, according to an official bulletin issued by the admiralty this evening.

The text of the admiralty statement follows:

"The armed mercantile cruiser Moldavia was torpedoed and sunk yesterday morning.

"There were no casualties among the crew, but of the American troops on board 56 up to present have not been accounted for. It is feared they were killed in one compartment by the explosion."

The Moldavia was torpedoed without warning. It was a moonlight night and although a good lookout was kept the attacking submarine was not sighted before the torpedo struck.

Most of the men aboard were in their hammocks when the explosion occurred amidships. The sailors and soldiers alike showed no panic. They fell calmly into line and awaited orders. When it was seen that the Moldavia was settling all on board were taken off by the escorting ships.

The men lost all of their belongings, but were supplied with new clothing at the different naval ports where they were taken.

It is believed the American soldiers missing were leeping on the bottom deck and were overtaken by the great rush of water after the explosion when they were trying to reach the main deck. It also is presumed that some of the ladders were destroyed.

The vessel was struck below the bridge. She steamed ahead for some time after being struck and at first it was hoped that her water-tight compartments would enable her to reach port.

The Moldavia is of 9,500 tons gross and owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. She was built at Greenock in 1903 and is 520 feet long.

MOLDAVIA PROBABLY ON WAY FROM ENGLAND TO FRANCE

Washington, May 24.—Sinking of the British armed merchant cruiser Moldavia with a probable loss of 56 American soldiers was announced in a cablegram tonight from the British admiralty to the war department. No details were given, but the understanding here is that the ship was moving between England and France.

The war department authorized this statement:

"Information has been received from London that the British armed merchant cruiser Moldavia has been sunk and 56 of the American soldiers aboard are missing."

The announcement was made by the British admiralty.

At a late hour the department had no further information to indicate what American units were on board the vessel. Many men are in training in England and it is possible that the Moldavia was carrying a contingent bound for the front.

The Moldavia is the third transport carrying American troops to be torpedoed and the fifteenth troop ship sunk by the Germans. Of the vessels carrying Americans the Antilles was the first to meet with destruction by a U-boat. She was sunk Oct. 17 last when returning to this country from Europe and 70 lives were lost. The second was the Tuscania which was sent to the bottom off the north of Ireland Feb. 5 with a loss of life totaling 101. The only other serious attack made on American transports occurred last June when vessels carrying some of the first expeditionary units under a convoy commanded by Rear Admiral Gleaves narrowly escaped disaster in mid-Ocean.

CONDEMNED THE PRESIDENT; IRATE CITIZENS NABBED HIM

Newport News, Va., May 24.—Publicly condemning the president of the United States and bemoaning the fact that "Teddy" Roosevelt is not leading the nation to victory, J. T. Herbert, chief machinists's mate on a United States war craft, was run down here tonight by a crowd of several score irate citizens and turned over to the department of justice. Herbert denies that he intended to be disloyal. He is being held on a charge of disloyal utterances.

American Troops Soon To Be On The Italian Front

Infantry, Machine Gun Units and Artillery Will Be Fighting Shoulder to Shoulder With Italians, Declares Secretary Baker In Address At Italy Day Celebration.

New York, May 24.—Secretary of War Baker announced in an address here tonight in celebration of Italy day that American infantry, American machine gun units and American artillery, soon would be fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Italians on their front.

At the close of the meeting a group of young Italians presented to Secretary Baker, an American flag which he would place personally " in the hands of the flag bearers of the first military contingent of the United States which leaves to join the Italian army on the Italian front."

Recent reports from Rome have quoted King Victor Emmanuel as expressing a desire to see American soldiers on the Italian front and it is well known that Italy as a whole would welcome American fighting forces. Official announcement, however, was not given until tonight by the war department that the United States would meet the wish.

In referring to the intention of the United States to send part of its fighting forces to Italy, Mr. Baker said that there were already in Italy representatives of America.

"The Red Cross is there," he said, "carrying the message of our heart and head to Italy. The Young Men's Men's Christian Association is extending its work there and the American army is already represented in Italy by a large and important staff of experts who are studying Italian methods of warfare and we have sent to Italy a substantial number of our army's sanitary corps, so that we have doctors and nurses of the American army already there.

"But I see, and in the not distant future, an American army, American machine gun units and American artillery fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Italians on the front line.

"And the value of that lies not so much in any material assistance which we may give that, of course, will be in proportion to the number there, but

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HOSPITAL BOMBING BOOSTS WAR FUND

Red Cross Subscriptions Reported Yesterday Increased Total By $22,000,000.

$89,689,000 SO FAR RAISED

Attacks by German Airmen on Hospitals in France Cause Wave of Indignation—Atlantic Division Over the Top.

Washington, May 24.—Red Cross subscriptions today took the second war fund $22,000,000 closer to its goal of $100,000,000 and the total tabulated at national Red Cross headquarters tonight was $86,689,000. Reports told how a wave of indignation, sweeping across the nation with the news of latest hospital bombing exploits to the Germans in France, had played a great part in making the day the most successful of the drive and officials count even more confidentally now on an immense over-subscription to the fund.

Greater New York with $23,392,723 pledged came close to its quota of $25,000,000. The Rockefeller Foundation was the largest individual giver of the day, with a check for $3,500,000, while the General Electric company gave $500,000, the American Car & Foundry company, $150,000. From national banks, 429 subscriptions were reported and the total tabulated by 350 institutions was $703,946.

Subscriptions by divisions announced tonight included Atlantic, including Great New York, $25,111,907, and Southern $3,001,951.

ROCKY MOUNT WILL DOUBLE ITS QUOTA OF $12,000

(Special Star Correspondence.)

Rocky Mount, May 24.—Friday was observed in Rocky Mount as Red Cross day. Many business establishments set aside certain percentages of their receipts on this day to the great relief organization. Many others in the city gave part or their whole day's wages to the Red Cross. A large sum was thus realized.

Although the final figures are not yet available, the campaign has been the greatest in the history of this section. Every place in the county with an allotment has gone far over the top, and is still going. The city went over the first day, and also is still going. The canvasers have not abated their efforts in the least, and the people are responding nobly to the cause of the great relief organization. Nash county an dRocky Mount were alloted $12,000 as the share of the great nation-wide $100,000,000 campaign, and indications point that the city and county will reach or go over the $25,000 mark when the final figures are tabulated.

LENOIR COUNTY MAY REACH $11,000 OR $12,000 TOTAL

(Special Star Correspondence.)

Kinston, May 24.—Red Cross contributions in Lenoir county today neared the $10,000 total. The total may reach $11,000 or $12,000 by the close of the

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NATIVE AMERICANS URGED TO JOIN IN

President Calls Upon Them to Participate in Big Celebration By Foreign Born.

WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 4

Independence Day to be Made Occasion For Celebrating the Birth of a New and Greater Spirit of Democracy.

Washingeon, May 24.—Native Americans were called upon by President Wilson tonight to join with the foreign born of the United States in celebrating on the fourth of July this year the birth of a new and greater spirit of democracy.

Committees representing national organizations or nearly every element of the foreign born citizenry recently sent to the president a petition announcing plans for a great demostration on the Fourth of loyalty to the United States and the cause for which it is fighting and asking the entire country to join with them. The president tonight made public this reply addressed to "our citizens of foreign extraction:"

Wilson's Reply.

"I have read with great sympathy the petition addressed to me by your representative bodies regarding your proposed celebration of Independence day and I wish to convey to you in reply my heartfelt appreciation for its expressions of loyalty and good will. Nothing in this war has been more gratifying than the manner in which our foreign born fellow citizens and the sons and daughters of the foreign born have risen to this greatest of all national emergencies. You have shown where you stand not only by your frequent professions of loyalty to the cause for which we fight, but by your eager response to calls for patriotic service, including the supreme service of offering life itself for abtle, freedom and democracy. Before such devotion as you have shown all distinctions of race vanish and we feel ourselves citizens in a republic of free spirits.

"I therefore take pleasure in calling your petion, with my hearty commendation, to the attention o fall my fellow countrymen and I ask that they unite with you in making the independence day of this the year when all the principles to which we stand pledged are on trial the most significant in our national history.

"As July 4, 1776, was the dawn of democracy for this nation let us on July 4, 1918, celebrate the birth of a new and greater spirit of democracy by whose influence we hope and believe what the signers of the Declaration of Independence dreamed of for themselves and their fellow countrymen shall be fulfilled for all mankind."

In their petition the committees said:

"We represent those people whose sons and daughters came to this land later than the founders of the republic, but drawn by the same ideals. The nations and races and peoples which we represent are taking their part in one way or another in the struggle. Some, happily enjoying a political en-

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PROPOSE TO RAISE AGE LIMIT IN THE ARMY TO 50 YEARS

All Men Over 40 Who Enlisted Would Be Assigned to Non-Combatant Service.

RELIEVE MANY YOUNG MEN

These Would Be Made Available For Line Duty—Bill Now Before Congress.

Washington, May 24.—Another move towards full utilization of the country's manpower was made today when Secretary Baker sent to congress the draft of a bill proposing to raise the maximum age limit for voluntary enlistment in the army from 40 to 55 years. All men over 40 so enlisted would be assigned to non-combatant service.

In a letter to Speaker Clark asking that the bill be pushed Secretary Baker said:

"Every man above the age of 40 years who is enlisted in non-combatant branches of the service will make available for duty with the line troops a man within the prescribed age limit for all troops.

"Many men whose long experience as mechanics and artisans will make them particularly valuable to the various staff corps and departments may be thus secured instead of younger men without such experience and the efficiency of the staff corps and the departments thus will be increased."

There probably are 7,500,000 men between the ages of 40 and 55 and many thousands of them already have attested their desire to serve by bombarding the department with applications. While the great majority of the men in this class undoubtedly will be restrained from enlisting by family and business ties, the number at liberty to join the colors is expected to be more than sufficient to meet the purpose in view.

Staff corps positions include many duties behind the front. Every headquarters unit includes a number of positions for which the older men would be just as well suited as the present occupants who, under the new plan, would be released for line duty.

Official estimates are that a modern army, to be maintained as an efficient unit, must have between 40 and 45 per cent of its actual strength on duty behind the fighting zone. This means that of the first 1,000,000 men sent to France 400,000 serve along the lines of communication, in hospitals or at the various head quarters and debarkation bases.

WITHHOLDS DECISION ON NEW REVENUE LEGISLATION

Washington, May 24.—President Wilson today postponed a final decision on whether congress shall be asked to start work immediately on new revenue legislation.

After Secretary McAdoo had given his opinion that immediate action is essential and after virtually all leaders of congress had abandoned hope f a July adjournment, the president at conference with Senator Simmons of North Carolina, chairman of the senate finance committee, agreed to withhold his decisive word until he secures more information.

SIX FATAL ACCIDENTS ON FLYING FIELD DURING WEEK.

Washington, May 24.—Six deaths were caused by aviation accidents in American flying fields during the week ending May 15. A war department announced tonight show that two fatalities occurred at Camp Taliaferro, Ft. Worth, and one each at Lillington field, Houston; Kelly field, San Antonio; Langley field, Hampton, Va., and Post field, Fort Sill.

AMERICAN CASUALTY LIST

Washington, May 24.—The army casualty list today contained 44 names, divided as follows

Killed in action, 4; died of wounds, 9; died of accident, 4; died of disease, 10; wounded severely, 16; wounded slightly, 1.

Officers.

Captain Frederick D. Clair, Philadelphia, killed in action.

Lieutenant Whitney H. Joyce, Unadilla, N. Y., died of wounds.

Lieutenant Aimee D. Genard, Manchester, N. H., and Lieutenant Eugene Paul Wubben, Colorado Springs, Colo., died of accident.

Captain John A. Batting, Waterville, N. Y., severely wounded.

Died of Disease.

Corporal Daniel L. Johnson, R. F. D., A. Box 271, Atlanta, Ga.; Private Evans Pegues, Osborne, N. C.

Died of Wounds.

Private Willie Kapitske, Converse, Texas.

Wounded Severely.

Sergeant Cleo C. Hamby, R. F. D. No. 3, Covington, Ga.; Private Earnest G. Lawrence, Gastonia, N. C.

Wounded slightly, Corporal Eric H. Moody, Tiptonville, Tenn.

GERMANY STRAINING EVERY NERVE TO WIN BEFORE OUR ARMIES GET IN THE FIELD

Costa Rica Twenty-First Nation to Align Itself Against Central Powers

May 24.—The government of Costa Rica has declared war on the central powers, accordingto advices received here.

The declaration of war by Costa Rica on the central powers brings the total numbe rof nations aligned against Germany to 21. All of the central American states now have clearly defined their attitude toward the war. Panama, Nicaragua and Guatemala have become belligerents. Honduras has severed diplomatic relations with Germany while San Salvador has remained neutral, explaining this neutrality is friendly to the United States.

The government of Costa Rica, headed by President Tinoco, has never been recognized by the United States. It came into power after the deposition of President Gonzales in January, 1917. In an effort to obtain recognition the Costa Rican government sent an enjoy to Washington last July but was not received at the state department.

SHIP OUTPUT FOR MAY SO FAR IS 29

That Many Vessels Had Been Delivered Ready to Take the Sea By Last Thursday.

TOTAL TONNAGE OF 174,661

All of the Ships Are of Steel—Officials Believe Month's Output Both Here and Abroad Will Again Exceed Sinkings.

Washington, May 23.—Steel ships completed thus far in May exceed the output of any previous month in the history of the shipping board. The total output up to and including May 23 was 29 vessels, of 174,661 tons. Four steel ships totaling 28,000 tons were delivered yesterday.

With the showing of the first three weeks, officials believe that the output for the month, together with the ships built in the yards of the allies, again will exceed the tonnage lost.

In the race with the submarines, it begins to appear that the lead taken by the allies in April, as revealed in Premier Lloyd-George's speech today at Edinburgh, is certain to be maintained and increased from now on. Only some unforeseen and disastrous interruption of work can retard the output of hulls.

Workmen in the American yards are giving their best efforts and leading the world in work done. Shortages of materials are being overcome. Lack of engines and boilers apparently will be remedied by the survey of manufacturing resources being made at Chicago.

It is hoped also that the American output of ships in May will set a new world's record. Of the 29 vessels delivered ready for sea, 24 had been requisitioned on the stocks and five were built on contract. The average daily output of completed ships has been 7,594 tons.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS TO GET REDUCED RATES

When On Furlough They Will Ride On Trains at About One Cent a Mile Less Than Civilians.

Washington, May 24.—Soldiers and sailors on furlough an dtraveling at their own expense will be given special passenger rates of about one cent a mile under an order issud today by Director General McAdoo to become effective as soon as necessary forms are printed and distributed, probably within two weeks. This fare will be allowed by ticket agents on presentation of a certificate from the commanding officer.

The plan, arranged to make it easier for soldiersand sailors to visit their homes before going overseas, has been proposed by a resolution pending in congress. It will probably apply alike to officers and enlisted men.

INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN THE COTTON MARKET

Washington, May 24.—An investigation of conditions in the cotton market has been promised by Secretary Houston, Senator Smith, of South Carolina, announced today. At a conference with the secretary of agriculture, Mr. Smith urged the investigation, declaring that the futures market has ceased to be a reflection of actual transactions and has "become an actual menace to the cotton trade."

The South Carolina senators told the secretary there is no legitimate reason why cotton under the present demand and the prevailing prices for cotton goods should be so "ridiculously and absurdly manipulated in the cotton exchanges."

Lloyd-George Declares Allied Commanders Feel Most Confident Over Outcome.

U-BOAT STILL A MENACE

But It Is Being Subdued and Is Not a Vital Danger to the Entente Nations.

SHIP OUTPUT GROWING FAST

Gives Warning Against German Peace Proposals.

Edenburgh, May 24.—That Germany is straining every nerve to strike a decisive blow before the American armies can be brought into the field, was the statement made today by David Lloyd-George, the British prime minister, in an address on the occasion of his being tendered the freedom of the city of Edinburgh.

The allied commanders who know best what the prospects were, he added, felt most confident about the result.

Mr. Lloyd-George said that while the United States was rushing its men to France the present strength of those armies was not the equivalent of one-fifth of the fighting strength which was gained by the Teutonic allies through the collapse of Russia.

The premier was most optimistic as regards the submarine campaign of Germany. He said while the menace of the underwater boat had not been entirely removed the allied nations now were building ships faster than they could be sunk and that the unrestricted warfare might be disregarded as a vital danger by the entente nations.

The prospects of using the entire force of the allies were very bright, said Mr. Lloyd-George, in discussing command of the entente armies in France. He sounded a note of warning during his address as to Germany's peace proposals saying that the Prussian autocracy did not intend to bring the war to an end "until its basket is as full as it can hold."

Reverting to the shipping situation the premier said that in April the output of shipping for the first time exceeded the losses. This statement was greeted with great enthusiasm, his hearers rising and cheering again and again.

The premier paid a tribute to the sailors of the navy and the mercantile marine, "whose invincible valor overcame the submarine difficulties."

"Besides protecting our ships and the ships of our allies," said Mr. Lloyd-George, "they had to undertake the difficult task of harrying, pestering, chasing and pursuing submarines day and night. They never ceased until they conquered that pest and blocked two of their nests—Ostend and Zeebrugee. These were thrilling deeds which gave new heart to our people."

The premier read a report he had just received from the admiralty "as regards the meeting of enemy submarines—that it was going on satisfactorily." That, said the premier, is official language. Since the beginning of the year, he added, the naval staff had been confident that the allied navies were sinking more enemy submarines than the enemy was able to build.

"We have reached the position," said Mr. Lloyd-George, "that we are sinking German submarines faster than they can build them. We are building merchant ships—that is, the allies as a whole—faster than they can sink them."

The premier said that from data at present available the admiralty held the opinion that in the month of April there was a record destruction of enemy submarines. When it came to the increase in shipbuilding the month of April was the record month since the ruthless submarine warfare commenced. For the first time the output exceeded the losses and that, he said, was not a bad record for a government whose faults were so freely advertised.

Mr. Lloyd-George said the submarine still was a menace but that it no longer was in peril. As a means of inflicting injury it was still formidable, "but as a danger which can cause the winning or the losing of the war, we can rule it out."

The failure of the submarine had been recognized by the Germans and that accounted for the present offensive in the west. The enemy had been driven into that offensive as a last resort to secure victory.

"Nevertheless," said Mr. Lloyd-George, "we must not underate the formidable character of that attack. The collapse of Russia caused a yawning gap in the bridge which has not yet been spanned by the coming of America and until the span is reconstructed by America, Great Britain, France and Italy have to defend the gap."

The premier said that the allies were on the eve of a great German attack and that those who knew best what the propects were felt most confident of the result. He said he felt happier than at any time during the war over the prospects of making the most effective use of the entire forces of the alliance. He had tried repeatedly to achieve unity of command and

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CONFIDENT GERMAN OFFENSIVE POWER WILL BE BROKEN

Washington High Officials Have No Fear of Result of Renewed Enemy Drive.

ALLIED POSITION IS BEST

Americans in France Sufficient In Numbers to Replace Anglo-French Losses.

Washington, May 24.—Renewal of the German drive in France, indicated by Premier Lloyd-George today to be imminent, finds American military opinion here absolutely confident of the outcome. There is not a doubt in the minds of high officers familiar with the situation that the enemy will be repelled with losses and the offensive power of Germany finally broken.

There are those who believe that the end of the war may come this year as a result. Others, however, foresee a long defensive struggle by the German army while efforts to secure peace on the best possible terms are made by the Berlin diplomats.

German Lines in Danger.

In analyzing the situation as it stands today in France, officers here point out that the German position strategically is far weaker than it was when the drive was launched in March. Their lines are now shaped so that there is constant danger of flank attack from several points that might mean disaster. To guard those points ample reserves must be held, whatever the call for more men may be made from the front of attack.

Before the German army stands a force that has been largely rehabilitated since the shock of the drive fell upon the British and French fronts and bent them back by weight of numbers. Losses in men and material have been made good. The armies are keyed to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Americans Replace Losses.

American manpower sufficient to replace by far the larger portion of the British and French in the bitter fighting which stopped the first German rush has been carried to the fighting zones supplementing the considerable American forces which already was in France. Except for the finer points of trench warfare the new American units are ready for the battle. They are regarded as fully prepared for the form of action in which they will be engaged.

In addition many thousands of trained Italian troops have reached the front in France. They came without equipment beyond their uniforms, it is understood, but now have been fully supplied and are available for employment by the supreme commander, General Foch. It is regarded as probable, to sum up the manpower situation, that the effective fighting strength of the allies an dthe Americans in France today shows a considerable net gain over March 21 when the German assault was begun.

Germany's Manpower.

On the other hand, Germany with losses certainly as great as those of the British and French combined and probably very much greater, has only her returning wounded men to fill up the depleted ranks of her front line divisions. Every regiment of the German troops that could be spared from the eastern front was withdrawn before the first blow was struck. Nothing has happened since then to make available additional forces.

With a disorganized Russia at her back, Germany cannot further reduce the forces she is compelled to hold in the east, it is believed here. Some interchange of regiments of larger units between the east and west may have been made during the lull. In preparation for the first great onslaught in the west, however, the German high command combed out of the east not only every strictly front line regiment, but even replaced the fittest men in companies there with older personnel, taking the picked men to fill the west front organizations.

Germans Forced to Fight.

Officers here point out conditions which contribute to force the Germans to attempt a further advance, hopeless as the outlook for success may appear. In the first place, the present German line in Picardy and Flanders is in such a position as to be untenable whenever General Foch feels the time has come to strike back. The German withdrawal to the famous Hindenburg line was forced by a much less serious military menace than now confronts the Amiens and Ypres salients which the Germans have created. Military precautions demand, it is declared, that the line be either advanced or retired in the near future.

Internal conditions, it is believed, compelled the military party in Germany to insist on the drive in the first place. The restlessness of the masses under the cost of war threatened the hold of the military and territorial expansion advocates on the government. If anything, it is said, that restlessness must have been increased by the grave food situation in the fruitless efforts already made and consequently there must be desperate efforts for a military victory to again quiet the brewing storm at home.

Peace Efforts Expected.

Those who believe the end of the war may come this year base their opinions on supreme confidence in the

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