



SUBMARINE FIRES ON U. S. GUNBOAT

Gunboat Smith Evades Torpedo; Submarine Escapes Under Sea

OFF FIRE ISLAND LIGHT SHIP THIS MORNING AT 3:30 O'CLOCK GERMAN SUBMARINE AND UNITED STATES GUNBOAT ENGAGE IN RUNNING FIGHT IN WHICH SUBMARINE MAKES A GET-AWAY BY SUBMERGING. PRESENCE NEAR NEW YORK HARBOR STRIKES TERROR TO SHIPPING AND IS IN ACCORD WITH GERMAN THREAT TO BRING SUBMARINE WARFARE TO OUR COAST.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—A German submarine today fired on the destroyer Smith about 100 miles south of New York. The presence of the enemy submarines in American waters indicates that the threatened German submarine blockade of American Atlantic ports has begun. This announcement was made at the Navy Department. "Reported from Fire Island lightship to the naval stations at Boston and New York at 3:30 a. m., on the 17th, an enemy submarine was sighted by the United States ship Smith, running apparently submerged. The submarine fired a torpedo at the Smith, which missed her by 30 yards. The wake of the torpedo was plainly seen crossing the bow. The submarine disappeared."

CANCEL USE OF RADIOS

Boston, April 17.—Naval authorities announced here today that until further notice no commercial messages would be handled in the first aerial district between ships at sea and shore radio stations. Wireless apparatus of all ships entering ports in this district will be sealed while the vessels are in port.

THE ATTACK IS REGARDED WITH GRAVITY

Washington, April 17.—First information of the encounter came to the Navy Department in a round about way, from the Boston navy yard which picked up the Smith's report, saying she had been fired upon by a German U-boat. The Navy Department after communicating with several points on the Atlantic coast announced that the report of the Smith's encounter had been substantiated by official investigation. At noon no further details were available here.

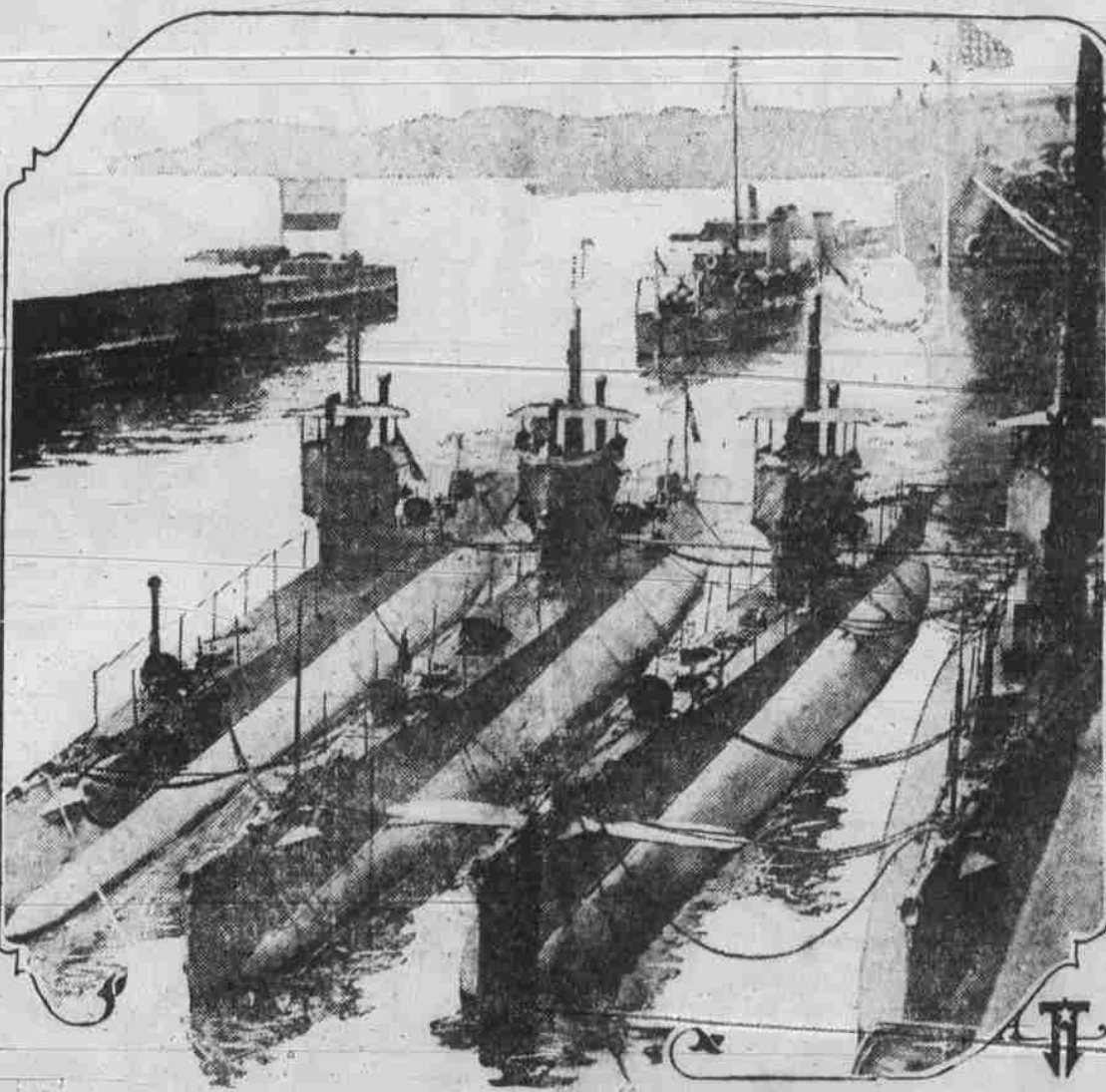
Whether the presence of the German submarine merely forebodes a sporadic raid which, as the U-5 conducted off the New England coast or whether it is the signal for the beginning of a general submarine blockade of the Atlantic coast. The attack by the U-boat is Germany's first recognition of the state of war declared by the United States. It was stated in Germany that no aggressive steps would be taken against the United States. Practically no American officials believed his statement, however, and moves to meet aggressive steps were taken. The probability of submarine attacks on unprotected seacoast cities and towns, roads on shipping within sight of American shores and a submarine blockade of the principal Atlantic ports to terrorize shipping and people is expected.

Last week word came to Washington that Germany was about to declare a prohibited submarine zone about the harbors of Boston, New York, the Delaware capes, Charleston and Savannah, virtually all the important ports on the Atlantic seaboard. Some officials believe that the lack of acknowledgment of a prohibitive zone of American waters may be due to the stippled conditions of communication with Germany. Without such a declaration they assert Germany will incur great claims of damage by neutrals and will carry on a new campaign without the color of legal authority which she enjoys. The declaration of a broad barred zone leads to it.

While submarines will be brought close to the shores of America, the possibility that German U-boats may have bases on this side of the Atlantic is revived. The project of the U-53 and the Deutschland's voyage indicates that to many submarines could escape British patrols and reach America. Whether it is possible to make such a trip and return without getting supplies on this side of the Atlantic was doubted. Officials here, many have believed, that the U-53 had a rubber ship. The possibility that merchant submarines of the Deutschland type, new converted to carriers of fuel, oil and supplies, might accompany a flotilla of the war boats on the trans-Atlantic raid is recognized as being ever present.

The possibility of bases having been planted by the German raid, as recently at large in the South Atlantic is one of the factors. The possibility of a German submarine base in the Gulf of Mexico has long been recognized and many officials have been convinced that when the raiding began the raiders would come from that quarter. There also have been many reports of secret German bases on the rocky and inaccessible coast of Maine and Northern Canada.

THE FISH OF UNCLE SAM'S NAVY HAS FINS



American submarines of the K type. Left to right: K-1, K-2 and K-5.

It is not generally known that the fish of Uncle Sam's navy have fins. The photograph offers proof. The two planes, protruding from either side of the bow of the K-5 are the elevating and submerging planes. They serve the same purpose as a fish's fins.

ALLIES CLAIM MONSTER ADVANCE IN THE WEST

SENATE IS SURE TO PASS THE WAR BILL AT TODAY'S SESSION

Debate Starts This Morning on Measure Adopted By the House

REPUBLICANS HOLD A BRIEF CAUCUS TODAY

The Senate Democrats Confident of Success of The Finance Measure Now Turn Efforts to Raising Army for the Nation.

Washington, April 17.—Debate on the seven billion dollar war revenue bill already passed by the house and approved with slight modifications by the Senate Finance Committee began in the Senate today without adjournment was expected. Before taking up the bill in the Senate the Republican Senators held a conference to discuss this and other measures in the administration's war program. As soon as the bill is disposed of, Democratic leaders in the Senate hope to make up the measure which the leaders are drafting to raise a large army.

They so Timed Attacks Along All Fronts as to Hammer The Germans Back on a Great Front. Germans Estimated to Have Lost 100,000 Men in First Twenty-Hours in Fighting About the Cambrai and St. Quentin Fronts.

Along a 150 mile front battle line the French and British are pushing back the German armies in a titanic struggle for the mastery of the western front. Stepping into the fray after the British had been hammering the German lines in the Arras region to bits for a week the French struck along a 25-mile front along the Aisne carried the German positions to the average depth of from 2 to 2 1/2 miles, captured more than 10,000 prisoners and maintained all the ground won. Last night after the great success of their initial rush the French forces occupied themselves with consolidating their new positions and resisting German counter attacks. All these assaults were repulsed and in the region west of Cambrai the Germans suffered heavy losses. Their total casualties all told in the past 24 hours fighting are estimated at 100,000 men. Both British and French reports today indicate that the continuation is being hampered by bad weather. Nevertheless the British pushed forward in the region between St. Quentin and Cambrai where they threatened to cut the main line of communication.

The strategic outlines of the great Anglo-French attack have been worked out in complete harmony by the staffs of the two armies. The dispatch indicates entire co-ordination for planning and timing the blows delivered so as to insure their greatest possible effectiveness. In a broad way it may be judged, the French now have for their immediate objective the isolation of the important railway center of Laon to turn the southern end of the Hindenburg line. The British already have pierced this line at the northern end the joint operation apparently is aimed at the rolling up of the present German front in an effort to complete a retirement on a greater scale than any yet witnessed on the western front since the battle of the Marne.

In Mesopotamia the British have advanced further up the Tigris and another battle apparently is impending.

FRENCH DEVELOP FURIOUS ATTACK

Paris, April 17.—The great offensive opened by the French along a 25 mile front from Soissons to Rheims is likely to extend further tomorrow or the day after. The tremendous assault on the German lines has long been carefully planned and for weeks the French artillery had been pounding the enemy's lines. The Germans were well aware of what was coming as they showed with a number of furious attacks that were being made to find out what was being done in the way of French preparation. The battle opened on the left of the line where shortly after 8 o'clock in the morning. On the right the action began a little later in the morning.

WILSON TO HAVE HEALTH PICTURES

The people of both the town and the county of Wilson are to have the pleasure and the benefits of the health moving pictures of the State Board of Health, complimentary from Wilson's progressive Rotary club. Recently this club appropriated the necessary amount to secure the pictures and arrangements were at once made with the Board of Health to this end. Educational health work is one of the many movements in which the Wilson Rotarians have recently interested themselves and sanitary conditions in their town and county bear testimony to their good work.

A LINER IS SHELLED WITH PASSENGERS ABOARD

New York, April 17.—The British steamship Karmaria an 8,985-ton passenger vessel was driven on a reef and sunk March 17 on the Italian coast after being shelled and torpedoed by a German submarine, according to two Americans who were among the Karmaria's 190 passengers, and who arrived here today from Europe. All on board the Karmaria were saved.

New York, April 17.—The loss of the American steamship Zelandia on the British coast early this month was due to striking a mine and two of the crew were sealed to death, according to officers of the vessel who arrived here today on an American steamship. Postmaster O. A. Snipes has received a letter from the recruiting officer of the Navy Recruiting Station at Raleigh stating that four of the six young men that went from Rocky Mount to enlist in the Navy were accepted and two were rejected. Those who passed the examination and were accepted for service are: W. H. Brown, rated F3C, John C. May, rated A. S., George E. Batchelor, rated A. S., and Alex T. Sumner, rated F. 3C, all of Rocky Mount. Edward Stephenson and Dennis S. Robbins failed to pass the examination and were rejected for service.

VACANT LOTS ARE OFFERED CITIZENS

Mr. R. L. Huffines Offers School Pupils Under 10 Years of Age Garden Seed and Vacant Lots.

Mr. R. L. Huffines, general manager of the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company, one of the largest insurance and realty companies in this section of the State, has offered to every child who attends the public schools of the city and who is under ten years of age, enough garden seed of any kind and variety to plant a garden provided the pupil will tend the garden. The offer provides that any pupil under ten years of age who will call at the office of the company will receive an order on any of the grocers of the city for fifty cents worth of garden seed and the kind and variety of the seed will be chosen by the pupil.

The company also offers its vacant lots in the city to the citizens of Rocky Mount for gardening purposes on the condition that the people tend them. There are many of these lots and this is the best way to cope with the high cost of living. The citizens should seize this opportunity to plant and raise foodstuffs and those who do not have garden plots on their premises will have a chance to raise plenty to eat this summer on any of the lots offered by the company. These lots are offered to anyone who will tend them and the school children as well as the older people have an equal right to them.

This generous offer on the part of Mr. Huffines is in line with the agitation in the country to plant all available space in foodstuffs as the chief patriotic duty of the people of the United States and now that the people of Rocky Mount have an opportunity to show their patriotism in this manner, there should be no delay in utilizing this offer at once.

MRS. W. L. LANDIN DIES AT RALEIGH

Mrs. Mollie Landin, wife of W. L. Landin, who resides near Nashville, died yesterday morning at a hospital in Raleigh. She is a sister of Mr. Henry White, brother of Mr. Charles White, who lives about five miles from here. The body arrived here this morning and funeral services will take place this afternoon from the residence of Mr. Charles White. Interment will be in the family cemetery. Mrs. Landin is survived by her husband and two children. She was 51 years old.

MRS. T. H. BATTLE DIES THIS MORNING

Succumbs to Long Illness. Was One of City's Most Prominent and Beloved Women.

Mrs. Sarah Emma Battle, wife of Thomas H. Battle, Esq. of this city, died this morning at 9:30 o'clock after an illness extending over many months. She was born November 3, 1859, at Scotland, N. C., the daughter of Samuel B. Hyman, a prominent citizen of Halifax county, and Mary Hilliard of Nash county.

Mrs. Battle was married to Thomas H. Battle, Esq. of Rocky Mount, October 24, 1895, in the Church of the Holy Innocents. Of that union was born Myron E., Anne Lamb, Ethel Hall and Josephine Battle, all serving their mother except Anne Lamb. One sister, Mrs. G. L. Lamb, of Henderson, mourns her loss as do a host of friends. She was a perfect mother, an ideal wife, a devoted friend. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock in the Church of the Good Shepherd and at Pine View Cemetery.

CITY'S BANKS WILL CLOSE TOMORROW

The Farmers National Bank, the First National Bank and the Farmers and Merchants Bank will close tomorrow afternoon in honor of the late Mrs. T. H. Battle, whose death today shocked her many friends in the city and vicinity in sympathy with the bereaved husband, who is one of the prominent business men of the city.

PAPER BARONS MAKE PLEA NOT GUILTY

New York, April 17.—Twelve pleas of not guilty were entered in the federal court today for the seven men indicted last week for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law in connection with the news print paper situation. The defendants were released on \$25,000 bond each.

PLAN TO RECEIVE WAR VISITORS

The Commission From England and France Expected Here This Week For Conference.

Washington, April 17.—Plans for receiving the British and French war commission which is expected to arrive here this week, are being discussed by the War Department. The commission is expected to arrive here this week, and will be received by the War Department. The commission is expected to arrive here this week, and will be received by the War Department.

JOHN HALL OF THIS CITY, WEDS

Mr. John Hall, of Rocky Mount, and Miss May Wilson, of Goldsboro, were married at Petersburg, Virginia, Sunday night, at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. Clarence H. Poague, of the Washington street church.

COTTON MARKET

New York, April 17.—Cotton futures opened barely steady. May 20 16; July 19 17; October 18 16; December 18 16; January 18 16.

STOCK MARKET

New York, April 17.—Important stocks were under further pressure at the opening of today's market declines ranging from material fractions to a point in copper, Mexican Petroleum, Central Lumber, American Locomotive, Industrial Alcohol and Studebaker. Rails were irregular with the exception of Reading and Union Pacific, which gained a point each. Shipping, the weak feature of the previous day, was steady to firm.

THE GOOD ROADS MEETING IS ON

Fifth Annual Session of Good Roads Association Called to Order in Birmingham Today. Birmingham, Ala., April 17.—Delegates and good roads advocates from about forty states were present when the fifth annual session of the United States Good Roads Association was called to order this morning by the President, United States Senator John H. Bankhead, of Alabama. The convention opened with an address of welcome by Senator Bankhead followed by a response by Governor Burroughs of Arkansas. A reception for Governors and other prominent visitors will be held tonight in a local hotel. The convention will continue four days.

NELSON JURY TO BE SELECTED TOMORROW

Tarboro, April 17.—The first chapter in the battle for the life of William C. Nelson, alleged blind tiger, charged with killing Bullockson R. Riggs and Ransom Gwintney and wounding Mayor J. P. Kouch, all of Tarboro, on March 23rd, was enacted in Edgecombe Superior Court yesterday, when the two members of the defendant's jury to remove the case to another county and another to order a jury drawn from an adjoining county to be drawn from the case here. The trial will begin Wednesday morning at ten o'clock when the jury that will pass on Nelson's fate will be selected from a special venire of two hundred and fifty men ordered drawn this afternoon by Judge Wheeler.

PITCHER MAKES A COLLEGE RECORD

Liberty, Missouri, April 17.—Mackonney, pitcher for William Jewell College, struck out 25 batsmen and allowed only one hit in a game here yesterday with Tarkio College. William Jewell won 3 to 1.