

# THE NEWS=HERALD.

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## OVER HUNDRED KILLED IN AMMUNITION EXPLOSION.

### Many Girl and Women Workers Lose Lives When Eddystone Ammunition Works Explode—Probably Accidental But Suspicious Were Aroused.

One hundred and twelve persons, most of them women and girls, are known to have lost their lives, and 121 were injured by a series of terrific explosions Tuesday in the shrapnel building of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation at Eddystone, one mile from Chester, Pa. Many of the injured were mortally hurt, and it is feared the final death list will reach 350, while others probably will be killed for life.

There was scarcely a fragment of the structure left intact. Fire added to the horror, and most of the bodies were so badly charred that identification was impossible.

In the absence of any official statement, many theories as to the cause of the disaster were advanced. Rumors of plots and arrests of persons, both inside and outside of the plant, were numerous, but all lacked confirmation.

Twenty Philadelphia detectives were sent to Eddystone soon after the explosion on a rumor that it was the result of a plot. After spending several hours investigating they reported that they had learned from officials of the corporation who had made an investigation that a quantity of shrapnel had been placed near a radiator and the heat might easily have exploded it. Their opinion is that the explosion was purely accidental. A canvass of the police stations in the vicinity and inquiries among officials of the company failed to reveal that any arrests had been made.

The explosion, which was felt in Philadelphia 15 miles away, occurred about 10 o'clock in what is known as the "10 F" building, a two-story structure, 75 by 300 feet. In this building time fuses were prepared, more than eighty per cent of the workers being women and girls. Probably fifty men and boys were employed in the building at the time of the blast and the majority of them escaped.

Great excitement followed the explosion. A heavy pall of smoke darkened the entire town. This was soon lightened by the flames from the burning building. Rescue squads composed of other employers at the plant were quickly formed and a call for assistance was sent to Philadelphia, Chester, Wilmington and other nearby points. The entire Chester fire department responded and ambulances from Philadelphia and Chester were seen at the scene. A strong military guard was thrown around the plant and everyone except those assisting in the rescue work were forbidden to approach.

## Brindletown Jottings.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.  
Rev. W. M. Hull passed away Tuesday, April 3rd at his home near Dykesville. He leaves a wife and several children to mourn his loss.

Quite a number of our young folks attended the entertainment given by the Mt. Olive school children.

Miss Bethie Neill is home from Newland, where she has been teaching school the past eight months.

The whirlwind was very severe at Mr. G. S. Bridges' Saturday afternoon, lifting the top off his barn.

Easter was very unpleasant to the young folks on account of rain.

Mrs. Tempey Morrison is visiting her daughter, Mrs. T. C. Williams.

Mr. W. C. Morrison was in Morganton Saturday on business.

Mr. J. A. Scott spent Easter with his family.

Messrs. Ray Morrison and J. H. Brown attended a singing at Mr. J. A. Getty's home Saturday night.

## The Entertainment at Amherst

Patrons of Amherst school say that the best school entertainment in years was given last winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Brownson, of Newland, marking the close of the school for the winter. The play, "The Turn of the Tide," was one of the features of the entertainment. Mr. J. H. Whisenant was the popular principal of the school this year.

The revenue collections for the eastern district for March amounted to \$1,935,816.85. Tobacco furnished nearly all of it.

## SOUTH, WAR AND FOOD.

### War Means Southern Calamity Unless Farmers and All Citizens Pitch In and Make Food Crops.

The following address has been issued from Atlanta by the committee on food of the Atlanta chamber of commerce:

We call your attention to the calamity which threatens the South.

In war the problem is one not solely of men and munitions, but of food supply. The South can furnish men to a certain extent munitions, but in the matter of food supply we are helpless, unless there is a heavy increase of food crops at once. We do not even feed ourselves. As matters now stand, we are fed from the hog pens and the stock farms of the granaries of the West. Many people in the South have felt it necessary to deny this or gloss it over. This may be all very well in times of peace, but when this war comes the truth will be exposed. We will be face to face with absolute want. Not only will we be unable to furnish food for the armies, but we will be unable to feed our people at home. We will become a burden upon the nation, because the nation will find it necessary to supply us with something to eat.

It has been estimated that \$600,000,000 of food stuffs, including animal products, are brought into the South each year in addition to what we, ourselves, produce. When all this food is needed for the armies and for the civilian population in other sections of the country, to say nothing of the exports to Europe, we must take immediate steps to produce upon our own farms something that will support man and beast, or we shall suffer. This issue can be avoided no longer. We must face it and face it at once.

Every well informed man knows that food is scarce the world over, and food crops under these conditions are sure to bring high prices. Corn is selling at the highest price ever known in the history of this country. A man in position to know predicts that no wheat will be available in this country by July 1st for any purpose whatever. It will be well nigh criminal for our farmers, and for the men who control the great plantations, and for the bankers who finance these men, and for the merchants who have been accustomed to supply them, to follow out their present plans and put every available acre in cotton. Our grain crops were practically destroyed by the cold a few months ago.

It is understood that farmers have determined to plant all this oat and wheat land in cotton. Every means should be exerted to prevent this. The big farmer and the little farmer throughout the South ought to be shown that it is his patriotic duty to grow sufficient food stuffs upon his farm, not only to feed his own family and his own stock, but to give some assistance at least to the government in taking care of the men in the army and navy. Let it not be said that in these critical times the South has become a burden upon the nation, is unable to sustain itself and unable to be of service to the country.

## Mr. Bryan Offers His Services.

William Jennings Bryan, three times candidate for President and former Secretary of State, Friday sent this message to President Wilson:

"Believing it to be the duty of each citizen to bear his part of the burden of war and his share of its perils, I hereby tender my services to the government. Please enroll me as a private whenever I am needed. Assign me to any work that I can do until called to the colors. I shall, through the Red Cross, contribute to the comfort of soldiers in the hospital and through the Young Men's Christian Association, aid in guarding the morals of the men in camp." Mr. Bryan, with the rank of colonel, commanded a regiment of Nebraska volunteers during the Spanish-American war.

## Senior Reserves Called to Meet at Court House Saturday.

Those who have signified their willingness to become members of a company of Senior Reserves and any others who may desire to join are called to meet at the court house next Saturday at 3 o'clock for the purpose of organization.

## MR. R. W. PIPKIN AGAIN CHOSEN TOWN MANAGER

### New Town Board Held First Meeting Monday and Elected Officers For Year—Patriotic Resolutions Adopted.

The recently elected members of the town Board of Aldermen held their first meetings Monday and Monday night. At the morning meeting the new members took the oath of office and the only important business which came up was the adoption of a resolution, which was done unanimously, pledging to President Wilson the loyalty and support of town in the war with Germany.

The resolution follows: "It is resolved by the Board of Aldermen of Morganton that the declaration of war against the Imperial German Government is endorsed and the Board of Aldermen hereby pledges its loyalty and support to the National Government to the fullest extent of its powers."

At the night meeting the election of town officers was taken up. Mr. R. W. Pipkin, who was town manager until several years ago, was elected to take the position again, succeeding the present incumbent, Mr. C. T. Cain, who did not make application for re-election.

Mr. J. A. Wall was elected chief of police, and Messrs. S. S. Lane and R. T. Wall night policemen. Avery & Huffman were selected town attorneys, and Mr. H. L. Millner was chosen mayor pro tem. All the board was present for both meetings, the members being Mayor W. A. Ross and Aldermen H. L. Millner, X. H. Cox, J. W. Garrison and F. Duckworth.

The board ordered that bids be received for the laying of a sidewalk on West Union street to a point beyond the residence of Mr. I. I. Davis, and that, following out the plans of the old board, the east side of Avery avenue be the next sidewalk paved.

The meeting adjourned until next Monday night.

## Rollins Notes.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Mr. W. A. Gurley, popularly known as Dan, oldest son of Mr. John Gurley, and Miss Effie Michaels, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Michaels, were married Sunday at the home of the groom at Hennessie, Esq. J. Edgar Scott officiating. There were between forty and fifty invited friends and guests present and a fine dinner was served. When the groom returns to his sawmilling work at Mortimer he will take his family with him. Mr. and Mrs. David Flowers will move into his house here. We wish Dan and his bride all happiness.

Mr. John Landreau has moved his family to Chase City, Va., where he will work for H. M. McElrath. As soon as Neil Lane, who has charge of the Glen Alpine Springs hotel property, can arrange his affairs, he will move to Virginia.

Saturday as Mr. G. S. Bridges and one of his sons were taking their mules out of the barn for the evening's work, a whirlwind formed in the yard, struck the barn, tore off half the side of the roof next to them, carried it over the barn and landed it 60 or 70 yards away. It also took away about 40 bundles of fodder, scattering it over the place. The damage to the barn was repaired that afternoon with the help of neighbors who were called in.

## OPTIMIST.

## "Keep Your Mouth Shut."

The Department of Justice at Washington has sent the following order to all United States marshals and district attorneys:

"You are hereby directed to give full publicity to the following:

"No German alien enemy in the country, who has not hitherto been implicated in plots against the interest of the United States, need have any fear of action by the Department of Justice so long as he obeys the following warning:

"Obey the law; keep your mouth shut."

Representatives of 72 high schools will participate in the fifth annual finals for the Aycock cup at Chapel Hill on the 19th and 20th. This is an increase over last year. The final contest takes place on the night of the 20th. The Aycock cup was won in 1913 by the Pleasant Garden high school; in 1914 by the Winston-Salem high school; in 1915 by the Wilson high school; in 1916 by the Graham high school.

## ENTRY OF AMERICA HASTENS WAR END.

### Russian Liberals Greatly Rejoiced at Action of the United States.

An Associated Press dispatch of the 9th from Petrograd by way of London says: The Russian revolution and the entrance of the United States into the war, following closely upon each other, can hardly fail to shake the determination and courage of the German people and will undoubtedly bring the end of the war nearer, was the opinion expressed today to the Associated Press by Prof. Boris Bakhmetieff, Vice Minister of trade and industry. Prof. Bakhmetieff said he saw a tremendous advantage to Russia in the action of the American Congress, not alone morally, but financially and materially.

The declaration of war, said M. Bakhmetieff, eradicated the long standing suspicion in the Russian mind that the United States not only was not neutral, but that she was anti-Ally, and particularly anti-Russian.

"When I left Russia in 1915," M. Bakhmetieff continued, "Russians generally were inclined to view the attitude of the United States toward the warring nations with great suspicion, to say the least. President Wilson's efforts to bring about peace were pointed out as not being favorable to the entente allies, but to Germany. The wisdom of his course, which has long been apparent to me, now is clearly seen by all Russians. Those who doubted his honesty of purpose at that time, now are convinced."

## Gilboa News Items.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Mr. Ed Dale has bought a new Ford automobile.

Mr. N. F. Rusmisl and son, spent Saturday in this vicinity.

Mr. Dewey Duckworth has returned from St. Joseph, Mo.

Misses Bessie and Jane Keller spent the week-end with their aunt, Mrs. Margarette Keller.

Mr. W. A. Hood closed his school Wednesday on account of illness in his home.

Mr. Billy Tate visited friends here Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. A. C. Swafford was in this vicinity during the week.

Misses Hattie Bowman and Vera Keller spent Saturday in Morganton.

A little girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dale.

Mr. F. B. Walker spent Saturday in Morganton.

Mrs. P. A. Hoke returned from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Robert Tate, at Knoxville, Tenn.

Miss Annie Bowman, whose school closed Friday, is now at home.

## Valdense News.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Mr. and Mrs. Brownson, who are settling up the estate of Mrs. Grant, presented the school with 180 volumes of children's books. This exactly doubled the library and is a great improvement to the school. They also presented the school an organ and several suitable pictures. Not only the school but the entire community greatly appreciate these gifts and hope they will prove beneficial.

Mr. and Mrs. Brownson, of New York, are spending some time in Valdese settling up the estate of Mrs. M. G. Grant who passed away several months ago.

Miss Mary Ann Garrou, who is in school at Asheville, spent the Easter holidays with her father, Mr. John Garrou.

Misses Jennie and Cararine Ribet were in Morganton Saturday, shopping.

Miss Emily Geugon spent the Easter holidays with Miss Jennie Perrou.

Miss Mary Long gave the little folks of Valdese an Easter egg hunt. After an hour of searching Nellie Garrou found the most eggs and received the prize, a miniature rooster.

Messrs. John and Frank Pons, of Asheville, spent Easter in Valdese.

Mr. J. M. Brinkley and Mr. Francis Garrou have had their houses wired.

Messrs. Henry Guigon and Frederic Ribet spent Saturday in Morganton.

Mr. John Myers, a student at Rutherford College, was a pleasant visitor at the school Tuesday.

School will close Friday, the 13th, and the entertainment will be given Saturday night. Admission—adults, 20c., children 10c.

## BRIDGEWATER NEWS ITEMS

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Mr. John Murphy, son of Mr. Frank Murphy, and Miss Delia Haskins, daughter of Mr. Mike Haskins, both of this place, were quietly married here Sunday afternoon. Rev. Frye, of Nebo, officiated.

Little Ruth Anthony, who fell and broke her arm last fall, had the misfortune to fall and break it over again Saturday afternoon. Dr. Long, of Glen Alpine was called in to reset it.

The remodeling of the Southern depot here is a decided improvement in looks as well as convenience. There is still a little grading and filling in along the railroad track which, when completed, will add more to the convenience of the traveling public as well as the trainmen.

Mr. Robinson Sudderth, of Lenoir, has taken charge of the dredge boat on South creek since the resignation of Mr. Robert Shuford some few weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ballew went to Morganton Saturday and brought home their little daughter, Katie, from Grace Hospital. The child is improving rapidly.

Mrs. Abner Seals, who has been teaching school at Epley's school-house, closed a very successful term of 1ve months last Thursday and it at home.

The egg hunt was very well attended and very much enjoyed by all present.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mills returned Saturday from a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Lon Cowan at Statesville.

Mr. Ben Seals left Tuesday to resume his work at Great Falls, S. C., after spending several days here with his mother, Mrs. T. A. Seals.

Miss Tracy Sigmon, of Nebo, returned home Monday after spending several days here with her sister, Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand.

Mr. M. F. Tate and daughter, Miss Carrie, visited at the home of Mrs. T. W. Wilson at Glenwood Sunday.

Mr. Pat Thompson spent Easter in Asheville.

Miss Ceceila Ballew, who has been teaching school at Enola, closed her school here last Friday and is now at home.

Misses Myrtle and Florence Hemphill are visiting their sister, Mrs. Ed Geer in Shelby this week.

Miss Nettie Hemphill visited friends in Marion Saturday.

Mr. Joseph Tate, of Marion, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Tate.

Mr. Vance Hunter, who has been with the Virginia Bridge Co. for the past two years and who now has work at Wilmington, is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hunter.

## Chesterfield News Items.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Rev. W. E. Whisenant and wife, of Woodlawn, are visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Whisenant.

Mr. John A. Dickson, of Morganton, was here Wednesday on business.

Mr. Columbus Moore, of Lenoir, visited friends here Thursday.

A number of the Chesterfield people attended the Salem entertainment Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whisenant and children have been on a visit of some days with relatives in Smoky Creek.

Mrs. Jim Harbison, of Glen Alpine, and daughter, Miss Claudia Harbison, of Davenport College, Lenoir, visited relatives here Friday.

Mr. Robinson Sudderth, who is running the dredge boat on Muddy creek, in McDowell county, passed through here Saturday to spend Easter with his family near Gamewell.

Miss Augustus Smith was a visitor of Mrs. James Mull, near the State Hospital, Friday night.

Mr. Malcolm Kincaid spent Saturday in Lenoir.

Mrs. Robert Sides and children, of Lenoir, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Arney.

Mrs. Herndon Kincaid and son, of Morganton, have been visiting at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Harbison in Quaker Meadows.

Mr. Eston Lackey was a business visitor in Lenoir the last of the week. Misses Jennie and Mildred Smith closed their school at the Mull school-house Friday night with a successful entertainment.

Sick at Glen Alpine.

Mrs. N. O. Pitts and Mrs. Durant Gibbs are very sick at their homes at Glen Alpine.

## NEWS ITEMS FROM RUTHERFORD COLLEGE

Platonic Debate Friday Night—How the R. C. Boys View the War.

Prof. and Mrs. M. T. Hinshaw are spending the Easter holidays at their old home in Yadkin county.

Mr. E. C. Harris, who is attending school here, is spending the holidays with his people at Unionville. Mr. Harris is a man 58 years old, and has been teaching school for 30 years. He is the oldest student Rutherford College has ever enrolled. He should encourage boys who are so anxious to get out in life. If it pays Mr. Harris in his 58th year to go to school, it certainly should encourage the boys and girls in their teens.

We hear a great deal of war talk. Our boys all stand for peace so long as it can be had at a reasonable price. But if the President must have men I think R. C. will furnish her part. We have a fine bunch of boys here and it seems rather hard for our young men to go. They are all patriotic. One young man has already signed up at Hickory—Mr. Moore, of Lenoir.

The Platonic literary society will hold its seventeenth annual debate on Friday evening, April 13, at 8 o'clock, old college auditorium. Program: Music; Address of Welcome, by president; Declaration—A Scene on the Battlefield, by George M. Mauney; Dec.—Nature Declares There is a God, Charlie H. Harbison; Oration, Honor, by James D. Pyatt; Music. Debate. Query, Resolved, That Military Training should be given in the American Schools, Colleges and Universities. Affirmative—Lester A. Lucas, Joseph C. Bass; negative—Dewey K. Lane, Roy C. Rutherford; Solo, by Miss Annie Luck; Judge's Decision; Reception. The officers are: John H. Myers, Pres.; Clyde B. Edwards, Vice-Pres.; William Gabriel, Sec.

On account of the sickness of Mr. Joseph Bass, Mr. W. G. Gabriel will take his place on the debate and R. C. Clontz will act as secretary. The debate promises a lively discussion on military training. A cordial invitation is extended to the editor and readers of The News-Herald.

## News Items From Worry.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Mr. I. D. Whisenant returned Sunday from a visit to relatives in Rock Hill, S. C. and Gastonia.

Mrs. B. Nelson of Valmeade, is spending some time here with her father, Mr. Julius Fleming.

Miss Ieda Ramsey was the week-end guest of her brother, Mr. G. S. Ramsey.

Master Richard Michaux, of Gibbs, spending several days here with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Michaux.

Miss Kathryn Bost was hostess to a number of young people on Friday evening.

Mr. L. P. Henderson spent Friday in Statesville.

Misses Katie and Sallie Ramsey left Tuesday to enter Lees-McRae Institute at Banner Elk.

Misses Knox Bess and Lucy Bradley and Mr. Edgar Gwaltney were the guests of Miss Mary Ramsey Easter.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Arney spent the week-end here with Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Arney.

## Bishop Horner to Be in Morganton Sunday.

Rt. Rev. J. M. Horner, D. D., of Asheville, will pay his annual visit to Morganton next Sunday. The bishop will preach the sermon and conduct confirmation exercises at Grace church at 11 a. m., at St. Stephen's (colored) church at 4 p. m. and at St. Margaret's (cotton mill) church at 7 p. m.

Miss Margaret Wilson, the President's daughter, has handed the Red Cross her personal check for \$1,000, the proceeds of her spring concert tour. The money goes to a fund for the use of American soldiers and sailors. Miss Wilson will make another tour, to earn money for the cause.

Tuesday afternoon was observed in Asheville as a legal holiday, proclaimed by the mayor a patriotic demonstration. A military parade, public meeting and addresses and singing national anthems were the features.