

Allan Liner Hesperian Goes Down--Reported To Have Been Torpedoed Without Warning

TWO PEOPLE KNOWN TO HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE SEA DISASTER

Passengers and Members of Crew State Positively Hesperian Was Attacked Without Warning.

NO ONE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN TORPEDO Aboard Will Be Accounted For Except Two Known to Be Dead.

London, Sept. 6.—The Allan liner steamer Hesperian sank at 6:45 o'clock this morning a few miles from Queenstown, after Captain Main and a voluntary rescue crew of 25 men had made a brave fight to bring the crippled vessel into port. During the night the vessel settled by the head and daylight showed her decks awash and the liner about to take her final plunge.

Captain Main and member of the crew that had remained with him were taken off the liner by rescue boats and landed later at Queenstown by the steamer Empress.

The sinking of the Hesperian in deep water will probably prevent an investigation to determine whether the disaster was the result of a submarine attack or whether she struck a mine.

Passengers and members of the crew assert positively that the steamer was torpedoed, but thus far no one has been found who saw a submarine or a torpedo.

The American embassy is receiving reports from Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, on the question as to whether the vessel was given warning. Persons so far seen by Mr. Frost state that no warning was given. Captain Main's statement will probably be taken later.

The list of identified survivors still leaves many unaccounted for. The Allan line is confident that the final checking will show that no lives were lost with the exception of the one or two who died after being rescued.

A Chronicle dispatch from Queenstown says that Miss Carberry, an elderly passenger on the Hesperian, died from shock after being rescued and that another woman succumbed a short time after being taken aboard the rescue ship.

The American consul at Queenstown, Wesley Frost, has telegraphed the American embassy here that the admiralty authorities there have no information that the Hesperian was torpedoed without warning but believe that to be the case.

None of the officers of the Hesperian had arrived at Queenstown except a purser. The reports of this man and those of various passengers

200,000 EXTRA VOTES WILL BE ISSUED ON \$20.00 WORTH OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Offer Starts Today, Sept. 6th and Ends Sept. 18th.

The opportunity of securing more votes than at any other time during the campaign starts today, Sept. 6th and ends Sept. 18th. 200,000 extra votes will be issued on each and every twenty dollars worth of subscriptions turned into the campaign department in addition to the regular votes. There is no limit placed on the number of twenty dollar clubs any one candidate may turn in, twenty dollars worth of subscriptions constitute a club, and subscriptions may be secured from any one where in terms from three months to two years. The offer is most liberal, and, in fact, it represents the biggest extra vote offer of the campaign and candidates should not let the opportunity pass without exerting every effort to secure as many subscriptions as is possible.

Candidates should not hold in reserve the entire amount of one club of twenty dollars and then turn into the subscription department but as subscriptions are secured bring or mail them to The Gazette-News office and regular votes will be issued and an accurate account kept of the remittances turned in, and a special

vote ballot will be issued at the close of this, which is absolutely the best vote offer of the entire campaign.

There is still plenty of time for any lady who wishes to enter the campaign as the offer which starts today furnishes the opportunity for making up any loss of time.

Last Saturday found the Subscription Office of The Gazette-News a very busy place regardless of the uncertainty of the weather. Many ladies of Asheville and the surrounding territory called to obtain full particulars of the great free gift subscription campaign, and many expressed a determination of winning the five passenger Studebaker touring car, while others expressed their desire of winning the 1916 model Ford touring car and still others have their hearts set on the pianos, gramophones, or some of the other valuable premiums to be awarded.

Candidates are requested to call in person, phone or write if there is anything not perfectly clear, relative to the 200,000 extra vote offer. Each and every candidate should be in possession of all information as this is the opportunity to place your name securely in the winners' column.

Seem Confident Sinking of the Hesperian Can Be Satisfactorily Explained

Washington, Sept. 6.—In the absence of definite official reports concerning the circumstances attending the sinking of the British steamer Hesperian, Washington officials seem confident that there may be some satisfactory explanation of the case, especially in view of the statements of the German ambassador to Secretary Lansing and the unqualified declaration of Foreign Minister Von Jagow that it was not Germany's policy to sink passenger carrying vessels without warning. Although it was reported that the Hesperian was torpedoed without warning, it was suggested that it might develop that the vessel had struck a mine or had attempted to escape.

Official Washington received news of the torpedoing of the Allan liner Hesperian by a German submarine with unexpected surprise, though there was some of the grave anxiety that followed the sinking of the Arabic.

While comment was withheld at both the white house and the state department pending detailed reports, it was learned that high officials regarded it as almost inconceivable that, after the assurances given by Germany last week, a German submarine commander had without warning launched a torpedo at a peaceful passenger vessel.

The reports as made public by the state department made no mention of whether the vessel was warned or attempted to escape, but other advices indicated that while the British admiralty believed there had been no warning, it would not announce it as a fact.

Some significance was attached to Consul Frost's statement that the Hesperian carried mounted and visible on her stern a 4.7-inch rifle. While international law permits merchantmen to have guns for defensive purposes, particularly when they are of small calibre and mounted aft, it was pointed out that if the Allan liner acted at all suspiciously after being approached the presence of this gun probably would figure prominently in the submarine commander's explanation of the torpedoing.

No one was in Washington to speak with authority for Germany. The German ambassador left last week for the summer embassy at Cedarhurst, L. L. happy in the belief that the strain upon relations between his government and the United States had been lifted. He had given Secretary Lansing assurances from the imperial government that German submarines would sink no more liners without warning.

American Bankers' Ass'n Has Convened at Seattle

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 6.—With the arrival of several special trains, approximately 1,000 delegates have arrived here for the forty-second annual convention of the American bankers today. The convention will deal with pressing problems involving the dominant part that the United States is taking in world-wide finance as the result of European war conditions.

The consul stated that there were forty-five unorganized Canadian soldiers on board, most of them invalided and that the Hesperian had a 4.7 inch gun mounted astern. The consul was unable to learn of more than two Americans aboard the vessel. There were

reported to be members of the crew and to have been saved.

Most of the passengers have no doubt but that the liner was torpedoed by a German submarine and some of them say they heard a look-out cry about, "Submarine on the starboard quarter."

The discipline was perfect, but one of the boats, the falls of which became jammed, capsized, and those in it were rescued.

(Continued on page 2)

S. A. L. PUTS UP U. S. READY FOR VIGOROUS FIGHT

Railroad Alleges Discrimination Against Railroad Property in Methods of Assessing Taxes.

COMPLAINT AGAINST COMMISSION LENGTHY

Judges Pritchard and Wood Will Sit With Federal Judge Connor in Hearing Argument on Case.

(By W. T. Bost)

Raleigh, Sept. 6.—When the argument in the Seaboard's injunction suit against Corporation Commissioners L. L. Travis, W. T. Lee and George P. Polj and Clerk A. J. Maxwell, State Treasurer D. B. Lacy and State Auditor W. P. Woods comes up for argument in the Federal court, Sept. 16, Judge Henry G. Connor will have sitting with him Judges Wood and Pritchard.

The commissioners are being enjoined from assessing the Seaboard's property at \$26,125,000 and the state auditor from collecting the levy. The action was to have been heard Tuesday of the current week, but was continued until the date agreed upon now to allow the coming of the district and circuit judges who must sit with the resident judge.

The complaint of the Seaboard covers fifteen typewritten pages, much of which is a recitation of the laws under which the commission became a state taxing body and the laws governing the imposition of taxes. With the law laid down by the legislature the complainant railroad company alleges discrimination against railroad property and indifference to the provisions of the law that require the assessment of other property at its real value.

Upon information and belief the complainant alleges that the valuation of railroad property is out of all proportion to the valuation of other property. The Seaboard alleges, and gives some items of great interest. The railroads have 28,747,685 acres of land assessed at \$216,392,901. They have 55,680 acres of manufacturing property outside incorporated towns and that is assessed at \$5,211,662. They have 316,814 acres of mineral and quarry property, which is listed at \$2,797,949, and 202,501 town lots, put down on the books at \$134,637,070. The total real estate valuation of railroad property is \$259,939,122.

Against that it shows that the valuation of all personal property in North Carolina for the last year was only \$269,889,913; of all bank stock, \$19,288,548; building and loan stock, \$4,829,231; corporation excess, \$10,444,157, and the total, \$56,275,212. The total valuation of all property in North Carolina in 1914 was \$783,919,168, of which amount the railroads paid taxes on \$116,711,190. The road contends that the assessment in 1915—the same as 1914—of \$17,500,000 was unjust in the light of the general assessment.

"When It Was Notorious."

The plaintiff alleges that the differences in methods of assessment were intended to cause railroad property to be assessed at its real value, "when it was notorious that other property, including that of other corporations, is habitually and intentionally assessed at from 40 to 60 per cent of its value, and so make the property of railroads bear more than its fair proportion of the burden of taxation," and contends that whether this is an intentional act of the taxayers, it does in fact result in taxing railroad property partially, unfairly and unjustly in violation of article 5, section 3 of the constitution of North Carolina and of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States.

MRS. L. W. SCOTT DIES AT HER HOME HERE

Mrs. L. W. Scott, aged 21, wife of L. W. Scott, manager of the Asheville Steam bakery, died at her home here last night. The deceased had been in bad health for sometime and her death was not unexpected by the relatives. The body will be shipped to the old home in Valdosta, Ga., this afternoon, by the Noland-Newton company.

U. S. READY FOR DRASTIC ACTION

Troops Will Not Hesitate to Pursue Into Mexican Territory in Event of Organized Invasion.

TROOPS ARE GIVEN EMERGENCY ORDERS

Reports Persist of Participation of Carranza Soldiers in Depredations on Soil of United States.

(By W. T. Bost)

Washington, Sept. 6.—Major General Funston has reported that General Nafarrette, a Carranza commander at Maratamoros, has again denied that Carranza troops are raiding on the Mexican border, and has proposed bringing more Carranza troops to the Mexican side to suppress the disorders. The Carranza authorities have suggested a conference to arrange for joint action.

The capture of Paredon by Carranza troops under General Trevino has been announced to the state department in consular dispatches from Nuevo Laredo. Paredon is just north of Saltillo.

Washington, Sept. 6.—The Mexican border situation has assumed such serious aspects that Washington officials have indicated that American commanders would not hesitate to enter Mexican territory in the event there was anything like an organized invasion of the United States and it was found necessary to cross the border to completely defeat the Mexicans. It is understood, however, that no such course will be adopted so long as the bandits come only in small numbers.

It is again reported that preparations are being made for an organized invasion of the United States territory in the states of Coahuila and Nuevo Leon, and all the American troops on the border have been instructed to be prepared for any emergency.

Persistent reports that some of the Mexican raiders again wore Carranza uniforms have reached officials here. Rumors have come, too, that there is a concerted move by Carranza leader in Nuevo Leon and Coahuila to arouse Mexican sentiment against the Pan-American movement for re-establishment of constitutional government in the republic.

Eliseo Arredondo, Carranza's Washington agent, issued a statement last night denying all such stories, and crediting them to enemies of Carranza. It is quite probable the Pan-American conferees will meet this week. They now are awaiting Carranza's reply in answering his given rise to some hope that his reply may leave the way open for further peace negotiations with his faction.

Bandits Killed.

Brownsville, Texas, Sept. 6.—Two Mexican bandits were shot yesterday by American soldiers who returned the bandits' fire across the Rio Grande at Cavazos crossing, fifty miles west of here. The gravity of the situation was somewhat relieved by the active cooperation of Carranza military authorities who removed Carranza troops from the river banks at Cavazos crossing and promised to try to keep their men away from the river.

BRITISH TANK STEAMER GYMBELINE IS SUNK

London, Sept. 6.—The British steamer Gymbeline has been sunk. Six of the members of the crew were killed and six were injured. Thirty-one others have been safely landed.

INVADERS MAKE SLOW PROGRESS IN THE CENTER

CHARLESTON MAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

E. E. Felder In Dying Condition at Mission Hospital—No Cause Assigned.

Suffering from insomnia during the past few days, E. E. Felder, cashier of a bank in Charleston, who came here several weeks ago for the benefit of his wife's health, cut himself with a razor across his throat early this morning at his residence, corner of Baird and Charlotte streets, and is now at the Mission hospital in a dying condition.

According to reports of several neighbors who rushed to the scene soon after Mr. Felder cut himself, in an effort to commit suicide, it is believed, he was found on the floor of the bedroom, in which he, his wife and a small child had been sleeping. In following it seems that he struck his head against the corner of the dresser in the room and pushing his head back, closed the wound, which it is believed prevented him from bleeding to death before anyone could arrive.

Mrs. Felder stated that her husband was up early this morning, probably about 5 o'clock, and that this being a very early hour for him she inquired what the trouble was and that he told her to go back to sleep that there was no trouble at all. During this time he was at the dresser and it is believed that he was preparing himself for the deed. He was talking to his wife about having a house built, it is stated, when she dropped off to sleep and it was while she was sleeping that he cut himself. Arousing at what she first thought to be water running she found her husband lying in the floor and the blood flowing from a wound nearly six inches long.

She at once gave the alarm and neighbors rushed in. Drs. H. B. Weaver and W. B. Whittington soon arrived and an ambulance was called. The man being taken to the mission hospital where he is lingering between life and death.

No cause could be assigned by relatives of Mr. Felder, several of whom live in Asheville, as to why he would attempt to commit suicide. It is stated that his position in the bank at Charleston is still open for him, but during the past few days he has appeared to be very blue and downhearted, it is said, and had suffered from insomnia.

Dr. Whittington in describing the wound stated that it began at the angle of the jaw under the left ear and extended almost to the right ear, the wound being about six or eight inches long, although the cut was not deep except for about three inches. The external jugular vein and the facial veins and arteries were cut, the physician stated, although the windpipe and swallow were not cut.

A RURAL MAIL ROUTE FOR GRAHAM COUNTY

Congressman James J. Britt has received a letter from the postoffice department at Washington stating that on November 1 a rural free delivery route will be inaugurated from Robbinsville into territory near that office for the delivery of mail. This is the first rural route to be established in Graham county. It is stated, and the citizens who will be served on the new line are gratified over securing this convenience. Citizens of that county made petitions for the route several months ago and Congressman Britt took the question up with the federal authorities some time in July.

Fighting on Eastern Front Proceeding Much More Vigorously on Flanks Than In Center.

GEN. VON HINDENBURG ACTIVE IN SOUTHEAST

Russians Confirm Berlin Account of Sinking Vessels In Harbor of Riga—Repulse Turkish Attack.

Berlin, Sept. 6.—The following official statement was issued here today:

"It was learned from Geneva that Romanians residing in Switzerland have received instructions to report to their regimental divisions."

London, Sept. 6.—The fighting on both wings of the Eastern front is proceeding with much greater vigor than that in the center where the invaders apparently are having difficulty in the trackless swamps. In the south near the Galician border fortune is fluctuating with first one side and then the other claiming successes.

The main offensive, however, still lies with the Austrians and Germans.

On the northern flank Von Hindenburg now holds the Dvina bridgehead at Friedrichstadt but has lost that at Lenewada further down the river toward Riga. The battle in this region continues without decisive result.

The Russians have corrected their earlier report concerning the attempt of the Germans to make a landing at Perna, confirming the Berlin report that instead of losing vessels as the result of an attack by the Russians, the Germans intentionally sank several small steamers to block the entrance to the Gulf of Riga. The deduction is that the Germans feared the Russians might try to land sufficiently strong forces to threaten Von Hindenburg's left flank.

Saturday and Sunday on the western front saw a continuance of the vigorous bombardment by French artillery at Arras, in the Champagne, in the Argonne, on the Lorraine frontier and in the Vosges. This heavy artillery fire has been kept up for almost a fortnight.

(Continued on page 2)

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