

HUNDREDS KILLED BY EXPLOSION IN HALIFAX HARBOR THOUSAND OTHERS INJURED, HALF CITY IN RUINS AS RESULT OF EXPLOSION OF MUNITIONS SHIP

AMERICAN MUNITIONS SHIP AND ANOTHER VESSEL COLLIDED; TRANSPORTS WERE IN HARBOR

Nothing Known as to Fate of Transports—Explosion So Terrific That It Destroyed Insulation in Telegraph Offices 30 Miles Distant—Cars Two Miles Away Blown From Tracks

CENSOR TAKES CONTROL OF WIRES AT HALIFAX

Meagre Reports From Halifax Estimate Property Damage In the Millions—American Ships Rammed From Broadside By Another Vessel, Both Carrying High Explosives—Messages for Help Sent Out

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 6.—(via Havana.)—Hundreds of persons were killed and a thousand others injured and half of the city of Halifax is in ruins as the result of the explosion of a munitions ship in the harbor today. It is estimated that the property loss will run into the millions. The north end of the city is in flames.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6.—The explosion occurred after the collision of an American ammunition ship and another ship at Rockingham, according to telephone messages reaching here this morning. The explosion was so terrific that it destroyed the insulation in the telegraph and telephone offices for 30 miles around Halifax, while it was heard at Truro, 61 miles distant.

It is reported that the American munition steamer was moving out from her pier and rammed from broadside by another vessel. Instantly there was a tremendous explosion which destroyed the two ships and killed their crews.

FORCE OF CONCUSSION.

The concussion resulting caused the roof of the railway depot at North Street to collapse while all the warehouses on the waterfront for a mile and a half were damaged. The premises affected in many places caught fire.

The force of the concussion was so great that freight cars were blown off railway tracks along a stretch of nearly two miles.

CENSOR TAKES CONTROL.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 6.—It is announced here that the censor has taken control of all wires at Halifax in connection with the explosion there today.

TRANSPORTS IN HARBOR.

St. John N. B., Dec. 6.—Later it was stated positively here that there were several transports in the harbor when the explosion occurred. Nothing as to the fate of these was obtainable. Neither is it known whether the transports were filled with troops or occupied only by their crews.

Messages Asking Help.

Messages asking for fire engines and fighting apparatus, doctors and nurses, hospital supplies, etc., were received from Halifax with everything required that could be procured.

At Truro, Windsor, and here the city councils met this morning and decided to take immediate steps to render aid to the afflicted people at Halifax. It is understood that large quantities of food were destroyed and that the citizens of Halifax may soon be in danger of starving. It was decided that car loads of food must be despatched at once.

Damage to Telegraph Companies.

The damage done to the Western Union and Canadian Pacific Telegraph companies and Nova Scotia Telephone company is so complete it is likely to be days before wire communication with the points outside Halifax can be restored.

American Ships Blown Up.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 6.—A large part of Halifax, N. S., is in flames following an explosion in the harbor this morning. Two vessels, one of

them loaded with munitions of war, including high explosives, collided.

Many buildings along the waterfront were torn to pieces and many persons were killed.

Other shipping in the harbor suffered severely and the crews of several are said to have been killed.

Wire communication between this city and Halifax was interrupted soon after the explosion and before more than fragmentary reports had been received. The munitions ship blown up was said to have been an American.

At the moment of the explosion a fierce storm was sweeping the harbor and it is supposed that the collision of the vessels was due to this.

It was reported that a transport was in the harbor at the time but nothing definite concerning this could be learned.

One of the buildings that suffered severely was occupied by the Western Union and was the terminus of the cable lines to the United States. One report says that two telegraph operators were killed and another that several employees lost their lives.

It is possible that the censorship at Halifax may prevent details becoming known immediately when wire communication is restored. Meanwhile frantic efforts are being made by the telegraph companies here to restore their lines to some point in the vicinity of Halifax.

Communication Interrupted. Boston, Dec. 6.—Fragmentary re-

AMERICAN ENGINEERS FOUGHT AND DIED WITH THEIR BRITISH COMRADES

Four Officers and 280 Men Were at Gauzeacourt When German Shelling Suddenly Commenced—Number of Losses Before They Could Secure Arms—Then Fought Valiantly All Day—List of Casualties Small

With the American Army in France, Dec. 5.—(Delayed.)—(By the Associated Press.)—How American railway engineers gallantly fought and died with their British comrades in arms on the British front before Cambrai last week was told today in a semi-official statement. "Two and one-half companies of railway engineers," the statement says, "with a strength of eight officers and 365 men were encamped at Fins, on November 30, having completed their work in the neighborhood. At 6.30 four officers and 280 men went to Gauzeacourt, arriving at 7 o'clock and starting to work with Canadian engineers. The entire contingent was under a Canadian major and an American captain. The area was three miles in the rear of the line and none of the troops were armed. "At 7.15 German barrage fire moved on Gauzeacourt after heavy shelling to the east. At 7.30 a general retirement was ordered and it was effected with some difficulty due to the artillery, machine gun and airplane fire. A number of losses were sustained at this time and also among the men who, cut off by the German

advance, had taken refuge in dugouts. Some of these men who had been cut off succeeded in joining British combatant units and fought with them during the day. Meantime there was active shelling against Fins and the men there were ordered to scatter in the field. "As the men returned to camp they were assembled under arms and instructions were asked from British headquarters. At 3 o'clock they were instructed to dig and hold the trenches and the men moved up and started work shortly afterward. At 6 o'clock the trenches were finished sufficiently for the entire command and division headquarters directed a withdrawal camp and that the men be held in readiness to man the trenches. Two small details were sent out to repair a distant break in the new track and to assist in transferring ammunition to another point. "The list of casualties is relatively small and will be given tomorrow. It is stated by British officers that the conduct of the regiment was most satisfactory. They praised the coolness under fire and the ability of the men to work without interruption is regarded as most commendable."

Prohibition and Suffrage Will Come Up This Month

Washington, Dec. 6.—Outlining a legislative program in the house Democratic Leader Claude Kitchin said legislation should be confined as far as possible to appropriations and war measures, but the woman's suffrage and prohibition constitutional amendments, he expected, would be taken up and voted on before the Christmas holidays. He said conservation measures would be considered.

Speaker Clark urged abandonment

ports were received by the Western Union Telegraph company from points west of Halifax after their lines to Halifax had been suddenly interrupted. One report was that a munition plant had been destroyed and another that a ship in the harbor had been blown up.

The Postal Telegraph company's lines were also down. The local office stated that Montreal reported no wires working east of that city.

One of the reports was that the explosion had occurred in the office of the Western Union at Halifax and two employees were killed. The Western Union at 10:15 a. m. reported that the local office was working with St. John, N. B., but that the latter city had no further information from Halifax.

The censorship at Halifax is severe but it is believed that brief details will be made known as soon as wire communication is restored.

Efforts to communicate by wireless with Halifax were made. There was some difficulty, however, because of the war regulations under which the radio stations are now operated. None of the radio stations had received anything up to 10:50 a. m.

Soldiers With Korniloff.

London, Dec. 6.—General Korniloff, the former commander-in-chief who escaped from the Bolsheviks at Mollheiv, according to Petrograd dispatches to the Daily Mail, was accompanied by 400 Caucasian troops. He was at Orsha, north of Mollheiv, on Monday.

Lost 17 Ships.

British merchantmen lost during the past week were 16 of more than 1600 tons, and one of less than that weight. In the previous week 21 vessels including 14 of more than 1600 tons were sunk.

of the Christmas holiday recess, but Mr. Kitchin opposed it. Speaker Clark declared that "if we keep on going the gait we are going now we will not get through this session before next December."

"By 'we'," Mr. Kitchin retorted, "you mean the senate." The house, he added, was already moving along and in all probability it would be through the session long ahead of the senate.

Speaker Clark urged abandonment

TEN KILLED AND 40 HURT IN EXPLOSION

Pittsburgh, Dec. 6.—At least 10 persons were killed and about 40 injured in an explosion at the Heidelberg plant of the Asta Explosives company, 10 miles from here, late yesterday. The T. N. T. plant, where high explosives were manufactured, was completely destroyed and buildings in the immediate vicinity were damaged.

Former Commandant Dead.

Norfolk, Dec. 5.—General Scott Shipp, former commandant of the Virginia Military Institute, died last night at Lexington, it became known here today.

British Casualties.

London, Dec. 6.—British casualties reported in the week ending Tuesday total 28,822 as follows: Killed or died of wounds: Officers, 193; men, 6,153. Wounded or missing: Officers, 494; men, 22,996.

Only 15 MORE TOY DEPT. DAYS LEFT TO SHOP

Advertisement for toy department with text: ONLY 15 MORE TOY DEPT. DAYS LEFT TO SHOP. READ THE ADS.

MEANS, ON STAND, TELLS OF HIS WORK AS GERMAN AGENT

Allowed To Testify of What He Did as Detective Burns' Employe

REPORTED GERMAN PLOT TO TUMULTY

Knew That Germany Tried To Start War Between American and Mexico

Concord, Dec. 6.—Gaston B. Means took the stand in his own defense today.

Means began under questioning by Attorney E. T. Candler, at a point several years ago. The first phase of his testimony told of his relation with the Cannon Manufacturing company by which he was employed for twelve years, for years in the Cannon mill's New York office and the in charge of the Chicago office from 1909 to 1911, when he severed his connection, because he had married and did not want to be on the road as much as was required.

His salary was \$1,200 a year and commissions, totalling an income at the time he quit the Cannon mill of about \$10,000, including income from his writings for journals, such as The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, as to sales, prices, grades and markets of textiles. When he left the Cannon employe Means said he went to New York and called on W. J. Burns, the detective.

The defense then endeavored to get before the jury by Means' testimony the matter which was ruled out yesterday when Burns was on the stand showing that Means had turned over to the New York detective information which he obtained as an employe of German interests which he thought would be of value to the United States. Means said he made a contract with Burns by which he was made manager of the commercial department. He said he did no work for Burns that would classify as detective work.

His statement that Burns had a contract with the Hamburg-American line was ruled out. After severing his connection with the Burns agency, the witness said he discovered a plot on the part of German sympathizers and interests in the United States and reported it to Burns. He said it previously had been agreed that whatever evidence he discovered which would be of value to the American government he would turn over. When he discovered the plot, he said, he made a full report of it to Burns as an employe of President Wilson's representative.

The movement was to have the outside appearance of a peace society. Burns had told him, he said, that he wanted his written report for submission to the president and later Burns told him that it had been turned over to Secretary Tumulty. This report was dated March 8, 1915.

Answering a question, Means said he was acquainted with captain Boy-Ed and had done some work which the latter was interested. Some time after the "plot" report was submitted to Secretary Tumulty, Means said he saw Boy-Ed and the latter told him a detailed report of the Huerta plot had been made to the American government and only five living men could have reported it.

Boy-Ed then said the witness must have made the report. "I told him I did, that I had agreed to furnish to the United States government any information detrimental to it which I discovered. He told me to go down and see my German clients and I did and was discharged."

Means said that he had been employed by some German commercial interests after leaving the Burns agency in 1915.

This report was read. It told of a conference at Barcelona, Spain, between former President Huerta and German interests.

Huerta agreed to follow the direction of the German interests. It was agreed that a peace movement should be started in Mexico and a peace conference should be held in a southern city.

An expedition was to be sent into the United States headed by Huerta and when attacked by American forces the Mexicans would say the United

"BLACK HAND" ARE AFTER CARL MULLER

Former Asheville, Now of Waukegan, Ills., Son of W. O. Muller, Receives Demands for Money

Many friends here of Carl Muller, of Waukegan, Ill., son of W. C. Muller, of No. 16 Charlotte street, this city, will be interested in knowing that despite threatening letters received recently, demanding money, on refusal of which his year-old baby would be kidnapped, he has not turned over any money and his baby has not been taken.

The Chicago Examiner of December 2, has the following story, together with a large photographic reproduction of Mrs. Muller and the baby. "Threats of a repetition of the Baby Keet kidnapping case at Springfield, Mo., were made in a letter received yesterday by Carl Muller, wealthy moving picture theater and restaurant owner of Waukegan.

"The authors, who signed themselves 'The Silent Six,' demanded \$12,000. They declared that unless they are paid the money at a designated place tonight Muller's year-old daughter, Louise, would be abducted and slain in your theater."

"Threats also were made against his wife, who is known as a beauty, and the extortionists asserted they would explode a bomb in the Elite theater, Waukegan, owned and operated by Muller. We have had our eyes on you for a long time. Now, listen: to avoid future trouble, we don't care to hear anything from the police; if we do, a bomb will be blown off in your theater."

"Sunday night, we, 'The Silent Six,' demand of you \$1,000—a small sum compared to your wealth. On Sunday night at 8 o'clock come, yourself, unattended, to Water street ravine, corner of Water and West, under the first pair of stairs on the south side of the ravine. With you bring \$1,000 nicely wrapped."

"Sunday night, if not, beware. Watch your wife and baby close. We mean business.—BEWARE. 'THE SILENT SIX.'"

"At the top of the letter was written: 'Show this to police and kiss your wife bye-bye and buy the kid a coffin.' At the bottom of the page was the following inscription: 'Box-r-us-est-sex-t-les.'"

"A postscript on the back of the page read: 'Remember the Keet kid at Springfield, Mo. Well, you're baby will meet the same fate, if the police interfere.'"

Both Muller and his wife were terrified. They notified Thomas Tyrell, chief of the Waukegan police, and federal authorities in Chicago. The latter took over the note for examination by handwriting experts.

"An effort will be made to connect its authors with recent dynamite plots in Chicago and Milwaukee."

"Meantime a double guard has been established about the theater and the flat above, where Muller and his family reside."

"About six weeks ago, said Muller, a chemical bomb was exploded in my grill."

"Never having received any threatening letter or blackmail demand, I was mystified as to its origin. A week later another bomb was exploded in the grill, and two weeks later another."

"I believe these were the work of the letter writers to pave the way for their demand by terrorizing me."

"Muller, who is thirty-four, has lived in Waukegan with his wife five years. He always has employed union labor, he declared and refused to attribute his presentment to labor troubles. He also is part owner of a grill in Evanston."

WAR RESOLUTION WILL LIKELY PASS HOUSE TOMORROW

The Senate Will Take Action Late This Week or Early Next

SENTIMENT AGAINST OTHER TWO POWERS

Reason for Not Including Turkey and Bulgaria May Be Made Public

Washington, Dec. 6.—A war resolution embodying President Wilson's recommendation for a declaration against Austria-Hungary and carrying unanimous approval of the foreign relations committee awaited report in the house today with the probability of debate and adoption tomorrow.

Senate action late this week or early next also seemed likely for an identical resolution before the senate foreign relations committee today. Chairman Stone announced that he expected the committee to decide its course in time for a report to the senate when it re-convenes tomorrow.

Approval of the resolution which declares the existence of a state of war between the United States and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government is regarded as virtually certain despite the sentiment in favor of the addition of Turkey and Bulgaria.

Reasons for the president's disinclination to include these two allies of Germany in his recommendations have been given confidentially to Chairman Stone and Flood and probably will be made public in debate.

Senator Stone and Representative Flood both conferred with Secretary Lansing yesterday and it was understood the secretary believes that no circumstances yet warrant action against Turkey and Bulgaria. Hope had been expressed by some officials that German domination of these countries may be broken.

Only one member of the house committee, Representative Miller, of Minnesota, who has recently returned from the war front, voted for the proposal to include Turkey and Bulgaria. On the final vote, however, he joined with his colleagues in approving the Austrian document. The strongest demand for the addition of Turkey and Bulgaria is expected in the senate.

LACK OF FACILITIES IN FRANCE CAUSES DELAY

By GEO. H. MANNING. Washington, Dec. 6.—The delay in the delivery of mail to the American soldiers in France from their relatives and friends at home, which has been complained of, seems to be due to the shipment of many times more than the amount of letters the war and postoffice departments anticipated and the lack of sufficient postal force on the other side to distribute it.

Congressman John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut, member of the military affairs committee, held conferences Monday with Assistant General McCain and Postmaster General Burleson to acquaint them with the complaints being made, and to seek the cause and have the remedy applied. Neither General McCain nor Mr. Burleson were able to explain the delay but promised to promptly investigate and take steps to secure quick delivery of mail to the boys in the trenches.

When Postmaster Patten of New York city, through which office all the mail for the United States army in France passes, came to Washington yesterday Mr. Tilson asked him for an explanation of the delay.

Postmaster Patten said the chief cause of delay is the lack of facilities, chiefly postal sorting clerks in France to handle the enormous mail from this country. But few ships are available for carrying mail to France, he said, and when shipments are made the bulk is so large the few postal officials in France are swamped. The last ship that went over carrying mail took 2,100 full sacks of mail. Postmaster Patten said, and the facilities in France for handling it had been so unequal to the task that considerable delay in delivery is sure to result. Until the facilities for mail distribution in France are greatly increased there is sure to be delay, Mr. Patten said.

COLLECTOR A. D. WATTS VISITING WASHINGTON

By GEO. H. MANNING.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—A. D. Watts, internal revenue collector of the western district of North Carolina, is spending a few days in Washington on business with Internal Revenue Commissioner Hoper and to see Senator Simmons and his many other friends here. He will confer with Commissioner Roper in regard to methods for collecting the new war taxes and several minor matters.

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