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TORPEDO FIRED AT U. S. S. SMITH 100 Miles Off New York, Missing Ship 30 Yards

BLOCKADE BY SUBMARINES NOW BROUGHT TO DOORS OF AMERICAN ATLANTIC PORTS.

Explosive From Undersea Craft Misses Bow of United States Destroyer Smith by Only Thirty Yards—Submarine Disappeared, and Not a Shot Was Fired at Her.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—A German submarine today fired on the destroyer Smith about 100 miles south of New York.

The presence of enemy submarines in American waters indicates that the threatened German blockade of American Atlantic ports has begun.

This announcement was issued by the Navy Department today.

"Reported from Fire Island Light ship to the naval stations at Boston and New York at 3:30 a. m., on the 17, an enemy submarine was sighted by the United States Ship Smith running apparently submerged. Submarine fired a torpedo at the United States Ship Smith, which missed her by thirty yards. The wake of the torpedo was plainly seen crossing the bow. Submarine disappeared."

First information of the encounter came to the Navy Department in a roundabout 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.

May Mean General Blockade.

Whether the presence of the submarine merely foreshadows a sporadic raid, such as the U-53 conducted off the New England coast, or whether it is the signal for a general submarine blockade of the Atlantic coast, is not yet known.

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 soon after the war started that no aggressive action would be taken against the United States.

Practically no American officials believed this statement, however, and moves to meet such attacks were at once begun.

Prohibited Zone is Expected.

Last week word came to Washington that Germany was about to declare a prohibited submarine zone about the harbors at Boston, New York, the Delaware Capes, Chesapeake Bay, Charleston and Savannah virtually all the important ports on the Atlantic Seaboard.

Some American officials were disinclined to credit the report, but Entente diplomats here predicted that Germany soon would carry the submarine warfare to this side of the Atlantic.

Some officials think that the lack of a declaration of a prohibited zone in American waters may be due to crippled communications with Germany. Without such a declaration, they say, Germany will incur great damage to neutrals, and will carry on a new campaign without the color of legal authority which she contends the declaration of a barred zone lends to it.

Bases On This Side Likely.

With submarine war brought close to the doors of America, the possibility that German U-boats may have bases on this side of the Atlantic is revived. The raid of the U-53 and the Deutschland's two voyages demonstrated that German submarines could escape the British cordon and reach America. Many officials have always believed that the U-53 had a mother ship. The possibility that merchant submarines of the Deutschland type, now converted to carriers of fuel oil and supplies, might accompany flotilla of the war boats on the trans-Atlantic raids is recognized as being ever present. The possibility of bases having been planted by the German raiders recently at large in the South Atlantic is one of the foremost. 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 have also been reports of secret submarine bases on the rocky coasts of Maine and northern Canada, but since there has been no evidence of the use of such bases, it is considered unlikely that if they exist they can be brought into use in Germany's submarine warfare.

Losses Expected.

Expert opinion is that some shipping is bound to be lost if the raiding is extensive, but that submarines operating 3,000 miles away from home have most of the disadvantages to contend with.

Mrs. A. F. Johnson.

Her many friends in Louisburg were shocked last Friday night when the sad news rapidly spread throughout the city that Mrs. Asher F. Johnson had died at 6:30 o'clock in the afternoon in Rex hospital, Raleigh, after an illness of about five weeks of acute anemia. She was sick here about three weeks before she was taken to the hospital in a desperately critical condition two weeks ago. For some time after going to the hospital her condition improved, and good hopes were entertained of her recovery. Most of her friends here thought she was getting on nicely when they were startled with the sad news of her untimely death.

Her remains were brought to her home in Louisburg Saturday morning, and the funeral services were held in the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the presence of a large concourse of sympathetic friends and loved ones. Rev. N. H. D. Wilson, her pastor, assisted by Rev. W. M. Gilmore, of the Baptist church, conducted the service. A feature of the service was a very tender and touching solo by Mrs. A. H. Fleming, as was also the other music rendered by the choir. The interment was made in Oaklawn cemetery. The floral offerings were unusually numerous and beautiful in design. The pall bearers were: Messrs. B. T. Holden, L. L. Joyner, R. A. Pearce, F. W. Wheless, J. M. Allen, J. J. Barrow.

Before her marriage to Mr. A. F. Johnson ten years ago, she was Miss Sadie Thomas, second daughter of Mr. J. A. Thomas, editor and proprietor of the FRANKLIN TIMES and one of the most popular officials Franklin county ever had. Mrs. Johnson was still in the prime of her young womanhood, being only 34 years old. She was the mother of five children, four of whom are now living, Adelaide, Elizabeth, Sadie and James. Besides her husband and children, four sisters, Mrs. D. G. Pearce, of near Louisburg, Mrs. Chas. F. Best, of near Franklinton, Misses Eleanor and Louise Thomas, and two brothers, Messrs. J. E. and Ernest Thomas, all of Louisburg, survive her.

Mrs. Johnson was a quiet, unassuming lady, a keeper of home, a true and loyal wife, a faithful mother, a thoughtful sister, sincere friend and a devout Christian lady, being a member for many years of the Louisburg Methodist church. A host of friends will join with us in heartiest and tenderest sympathy for this sorely bereaved family.

Among the number of people from a distance who attended the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Stimms, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davenport, Mr. L. P. Johnson and Miss Margaret Johnson, of Rocky Mount, Mr. Willie Thomas, Misses Helen and Mamie Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. George Grayson, Misses Mary Louise and Evelyll Shore, of Raleigh.

"The Private Secretary."

The Wake Forest College Dramatic Club will present "The Private Secretary," a farcical comedy, in three acts, at the Opera House, under the auspices of the Woman's Club on Monday, April 23rd, 1917, at 8:15 p. m. Admission: Adults 35c, Children 25c. Reserved seats 50c.

Mrs. W. Herbert Perry.

Mrs. W. Herbert Perry died at midnight Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fuller, four miles south

of this place after an illness of about five months. She was 80 years old lacking a few days, and was one of Franklin county's most estimable ladies. For many years she had been a faithful and devout member of the Flat Rock Baptist church. Two daughters, Mrs. J. H. Fuller, Mrs. J. H. Mitchell, of near Louisburg, and one son, Mr. R. C. Perry, of this city, survive her.

The funeral services were conducted Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the home of Mr. J. H. Fuller by Rev. W. M. Gilmore, of Louisburg, and Rev. B. C. Alred, of Youngsville, and the interment was made in the family burying ground near by.

Fun For Louisburg.

Replete throughout with ludicrous situations and rich in comical scenes, "The Private Secretary," a farcical comedy in three acts, which will be given in Louisburg Opera House on April 23rd, 1917, by the Wake Forest College Dramatic Club is a vehicle well suited to display the talents of the company. If you are averse to having your sides ache from laughter, you are amply forewarned, for the play teems with comical situations. In the beginning of the play we find Douglas Cattermole and Harry Mansland, nephews of two distinguished English gentlemen, confronted with the problem of inheritance. After much misunderstanding, which involves the actors in numerous ludicrous and mirth provoking situations, the boys finally win despite Mr. Gibson's high ideals; Mr. Mansland's dignity; Mr. Cattermole's severity; the girl's mischievousness, and Rev. Spalding's timidity.

Especially effective are Mr. J. C. Joyner and Mr. J. W. Bryan, Jr., in their portrayal of the characters of "Do-you-know" Rev. Robert Spalding, and Mr. Cattermole, C-a-t, Catter, ter, Catter, m-o-l-e, mole, Cattermole, of Calcutta. Mr. T. O. Moses, in the role of Gibson, the villainous tailor who causes all the trouble, has completely captivated every audience that he has appeared before. Mr. C. L. Wharton, as the spiritualistic Miss Ashford, and the talented young ladies, Misses Gladys Carstarphen and Minta Holding, are quite at home in their respective roles. In fact the entire cast is entrusted to such competent players that the production of the play would do credit to any company of professional actors and actresses.

Harris-Cheatham.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. P. Harris announce the engagement of their daughter Ella

to Mr. Edward Joseph Cheatham. The wedding to take place on the 6th of June, 1917.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. A. J. P. Harris, more familiarly known in Franklin as "Squire Pink Harris," one of the county's most prominent, successful and influential citizens. She is a young lady of charming personality and refined accomplishments which has made of her a favorite among all her acquaintances.

The groom is one of Franklinton's most popular and successful young men and through his accommodating and pleasing disposition as shown in the discharge of his duties as agent for the Seaboard Air Line, for which he was agent for a long number of years, has made, not only a county, but a statewide reputation of being "one of the finest men you ever met." Capt. Cheatham possesses an ability of magnitude and a personality which makes all his acquaintances friends and therefore enjoys an enormous popularity.

The coming event will be looked forward to with much interest owing to the extreme popularity of the contracting parties.

Layton-Perry.

At the residence of the bride's parents at Justice, last Wednesday evening, Mr. Robert H. Layton and Miss Katie Perry were happily joined in the bonds of wedlock. Rev. John Bunn, of Wake Forest College, performing the ceremony. Mr. Layton is connected with the I. J. Deltz Co., of this city, and is a very capable and promising young man. Mrs. Layton is one of Franklin county's most charming young women. For the present they are with Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Howell on Kenmore Avenue.

NO HEAVY GUN FIRE OFF MASSACHUSETTS COAST

Morning Reports Erroneous According To Later Information at Boston Navy Yard.

Boston, Mass., April 18.—It was officially announced at the Navy Yard today that no credence was placed in reports from three coast guard stations on Cape Cod that heavy gun fire had been heard off the coast. The positive statement was made that there had been no naval engagement and that warships had not exchanged salutes with foreign vessels.

The previous announcement that heavy gun firing had been heard during the morning was also issued officially at the navy yard. It was based on reports from Cape Cod received by Lieut. E. G. Blakelee, in charge of the naval radio district.

Newspaper correspondents at points on the cape reported that they had not heard and gun firing and that they knew nothing of it except from the bulletins issued by the naval authorities.

The statement discrediting the first official announcement was issued after the navy yard radio station had been in communication with the patrol fleet off the coast. No information of any firing was obtained from ships at sea, the authorities said, adding that coast guard stations had sent in no additional reports. Naval officers who were asked to explain the probable origin of the morning reports, which, according to the official announcement came independently from three coast guard stations, said they were unable to offer any suggestion as to what might have been heard at those stations.

Mrs. Spencer Asks for \$150 a Month Alimony.

The case of Mrs. J. A. Spencer, who entered suit in Franklin county last Saturday against her husband for \$150 a month alimony, will be given a hearing before Judge Albert Cox, in this city, on next Saturday. Senator Person of Louisburg, who is Mrs. Spencer's attorney, was here yesterday and presented the matter to Judge Devn, who made the application returnable before Judge Cox.

Mrs. Spencer and her husband lived within two miles of Louisburg. She left him on last Saturday, alleging that he beat her with a poker. She further alleges that on numbers of times before he had whipped her but she had said nothing about it.

Spencer has but one arm and is a well-to-do farmer.—News-Observer, Tuesday.

Proceedings in connection with the above matter were begun before Squire A. W. Alston, here, Saturday with a result that Mr. Spencer was bound over to court under a \$400.00 bond and also placed under a \$200.00 peace bond. However on Tuesday the parties to both sides got together on an agreement which practically eliminates the matter, especially the civil feature.

Lewis-Debnam.

Sunday afternoon at the residence of Mr. J. B. Debnam on South Main Street, brother of the bride, in the presence of a large company of friends Miss Mamie M. Debnam and Mr. George Lewis were married. Rev. Walter M. Gilmore officiating, using the ring ceremony.

Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left by automobile for Raleigh and other Southern cities, where they will spend their honeymoon.

Mr. Lewis is the proprietor of the Louisburg Candy Kitchen and is a native Greek.

Miss Pattie Hunt Entertained in Honor of Her Birthday.

Miss Pattie Hunt entertained Wednesday evening from 7:30 till 11:00, in honor of her twenty-first birthday, in her home at Youngsville. Miss Hunt proved a very charming hostess, being dressed in white and wearing red carnations. The guest expressed a very pleasant time. The most enjoyable feature of the evening being the music of six different instruments, furnished by Misses Ola Alford, Pattie Hunt, Grace Bunn, Messrs. E. W. Hunt, R. S. Hunt, and H. N. Fuller, also singing by Oak Level choir, after which refreshments were served by the hostess and Miss Marvin Keith. A number of useful presents were received and appreciated. The number being present about

thirty, the out of town guest were Miss Grace Bunn, of Portsmouth, Va., Misses Ola Alford, Marvin Keith, and Oscar Hagwood, of Louisburg, and Robert S. Hunt, brother of the hostess, of Raleigh.

A Tribute.

A universal sorrow hung over the community on Wednesday morning, April 11th, when, with saddened voices it was announced that Mrs. Lawrence Bowden was dead. She was taken sick just ten days before, and the tidings from her bedside were of the most hopeful nature until Friday, when it was seen that the end was near and though every possible means was exhausted to strengthen the slender cord by which she held on to life, the dissolution came at 2:12 a. m. Somewhere tonight among the hills of Heaven, She walks with all her stars around her, And, may I, who lost here on earth, Grow happy, knowing God has found her.

Mother was a woman of rare beauty of character, and as she was possessed of a most charming personality combined with a rarely beautiful disposition it is not strange that she was adored in her home, and admired and loved by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

We shall sadly miss her, but we realize that this is only another instance where the Master walked in His garden and gathered the fairest flower to transplant to His upper and better Kingdom. At this time it is comforting to think that Our Heavenly Father says "He doth not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men." And that "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."

Where the sentinel evergreens keep silent watch and guard eternal above her couch; where the soft sweet incense of the flowers garlanded about her resting place by the loving hands of sorrowing friends mingle their perfume with the balmy breath of spring; where peace lingers lovingly and where care and pain are alike forgotten, our loved one lies in dreamless sleep. Beneath the drooping mass which shall ever mourn our loss, with gentle hands they laid her to rest and covered her with flowers beautiful and sweet, in great profusion. The tribute of flowers and tears and a silent grief told how well she was loved. Let us thank God for immortality and look forward to the time when we shall meet our loved one again. Smooth the braids of her silken hair, On her queenly brow with tender care, Gather the robes in a final fold, Around the farm that will not grow old; Lay on her bosom pure as snow, The fairest, sweetest flowers that blow, Kiss her and leave her, your hearts delight, In dreamless peace, she will sleep tonight, A shadowy gleam of life-light lies, Around the lids of her slumberous eyes, And her lips are closed as in fond delay

Of the loving words she had to say; And her gentle heart for-got to beat, And from dainty head to dainty feet; She is strangely quiet, cold and white, The pain is gone, she will sleep tonight. Put by her work and her empty chair; Fold up the garments she used to wear; Let down the curtains and close the door She will need the garish light no more; For the task assigned her under the sun

Is finished now, and the victory won. Tenderly kiss her, put out the light, Leave her alone, she will sleep tonight. O, blessed sleep that will not break For tears nor prayers nor love's sweet sake; O, perfect rest that knows no pain; No throb, no thrill of heart or brain, O, life sublime beyond all speech, That only the pure through dying, reach! God understands, and his ways are right, Bid his beloved a long good-night.

E. B. P.

A news item states that there are more than 130 species of bats known to scientists. Shucks! There are more than that in congress alone.

IN AND ABOUT TOWN.

Many on Business, Many on Pleasure, Others to be Going, But All Going or Coming.

Mr. Terrell Kemp spent Friday in Raleigh.

Mrs. J. H. Jacobs, of Tarboro, is visiting at Mr. M. S. Clifton's.

Mr. W. W. Webb and sons Edmund and William, visited Raleigh Friday.

Mr. D. F. McKinne returned Wednesday from a business trip to Richmond.

Mr. W. W. Webb visited Blackstone and Richmond, Va., the past week.

Mr. W. H. Abernethy, of Spring Hope, was a visitor to Louisburg Wednesday.

Mrs. M. C. Pleasants returned Tuesday from a visit to her people at Wilson.

Lieut. A. O. Dickens returned Tuesday from a visit to his people at Rocky Mount.

Messrs. J. A. Turner, B. T. Holden, W. D. Egerton and J. E. Thomas went to Raleigh Wednesday.

Supt. and Mrs. J. R. Collier and sons, Willie and Jim, of Raleigh, were visitors to Louisburg yesterday.

Miss Kate Ballard and Miss Fant, of Franklinton, were the guest of Mrs. Dr. R. F. Yarborough, Saturday.

Misses Julia Barrow, Hodge Williams and Annie Belle King attended a dance at Warrenton on Tuesday night.

Mr. Charles Aycock, who is in the U. S. Navy, and stationed on the U. S. S. Utah, is spending several days with friends and relatives here this week.

Mr. Walter Cooke, of Franklinton, Mr. J. E. Nash, Misses Leona Lamberton, Miss Annie Belle King, spent Tuesday night in Warrenton, attending a dance.

Mrs. W. F. Beasley and son, Elias, accompanied by her brother, Mr. Charlie Catlett, spent the week-end at Zebulon, visiting friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Yarborough, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Yarborough, Mr. W. M. Person and Mr. B. T. Holden visited Raleigh Monday.

Mrs. W. R. Mills accompanied by her sister, Mrs. M. C. Pleasants and Dr. R. F. Yarborough, left Wednesday for Baltimore, where she will enter Johns-Hopkins hospital for an operation.

Edwards-Brown.

Mr. A. R. Edwards and Miss Thelma Brown, who were married at the home of the brides parents in Latta, S. C., on Wednesday, April 11th, 1917, arrived in Louisburg the past week, where they will make their future home. Mr. Edwards was formerly from Henderson, but now represents an industrial insurance Co. in Louisburg and has made many friends since coming to our town to live. The bride is the daughter of Dr. E. L. Brown, of Latta, S. C., and is a beautiful and accomplished young lady with scores of friends and admirers who wish for them a long and happy life.

Annual Inspection.

Col. Stringfield, of Waynesville, Inspector General of North Carolina, and Capt. Rich, of Boston, of the United States Army, were in Louisburg Wednesday and inspected Co. D, Louisburg Rifles. They were accompanied by Col. W. L. McGhee and Col. C. L. McGhee, and Mrs. Capt. Rich. The boys acquitted themselves well and the Company passed a satisfactory inspection, considering that so many were too far away to be present.

Dr. Stallings Locates in Louisburg.

Dr. William L. Stallings, a graduate of Kansas City Veterinary College, Kansas City, Mo., announces in this issue of the TIMES that he will locate in Louisburg for the practice of his profession, and will have his office for the present at Fuller and Perry's stables. Dr. Stallings is a Franklin county young man and has fully equipped himself for the practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. He returned home Saturday from Kansas City, Mo., where he graduated and will open his office in Louisburg Monday.

He is twice a conqueror who can restrain himself in the hour of victory.—Cyrus.