

THE GREENSBORO PATRIOT

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

ESTABLISHED 1921.

GREENSBORO, N. C., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1918.

VOL. 97—NO. 12.

THE "TUSCANIA" DISASTER

MANY BODIES WASHED ASHORE —NEARLY 150 AMERICANS ARE STILL MISSING.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Seventy-two hours after the British liner Tuscania, laden with American troops and traveling in company with a large convoy was torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast, the war department tonight still was unable to relieve the increasing anxiety of relatives and friends of those on board by announcing the list of survivors.

Even an official report on the circumstances attending the sinking was lacking, and official figures still failed to accord with press accounts of the number lost.

The war department has had no official report on losses to change the estimate of yesterday that 210 persons were missing, 113 of them American soldiers.

147 Soldiers Missing.

British admiralty figures given to the Associated Press at London tonight show 166 missing, 147 of them American soldiers—four officers and 143 enlisted men. There were 117 American officers and 2,060 men on board the Tuscania, and the admiralty reports among the survivors 113 officers and 1,917 men.

In spite of the realization that the loss was remarkably small considering the number carried by the liner, the revised admiralty report was received here with bitter disappointment. Press dispatches last night indicating that the dead, all told, might not exceed 100 had led to the hope that possibly not more than fifty of the soldiers had perished.

A cablegram received by the navy department during the day announced that 67 officers and 1,274 enlisted men of the army had been landed at Buncrana, Ireland; that 91 soldiers are in hospitals at Londonberry while 570 officers and men are at Bally. This gives a total of 2,011, but does not include the scattering of survivors reported in unofficial dispatches as having landed at ports in Scotland.

Additional details of the splendid conduct of the untried soldiers as described in press dispatches today, were received with undisguised pleasure by army officials.

126 Bodies Recovered.

London, Feb. 8.—The British admiralty tonight informed the Associated Press that the latest figures available on the Tuscania disaster showed that 2,235 persons had been saved and that about 166 were missing.

The saved, it was added, included 113 American officers and 1,917 men, 16 officers and 183 men of the crew and six passengers.

The bodies of 148 American troops have been recovered.

Of the 148 survivors landed on the Scottish coast 143 belonged to the United States army, including seven officers. Of these one officer and 25 men are remaining where they landed to attend to the funeral arrangements of the American dead.

Americans' Bodies Washed Ashore.

An Irish Port, Feb. 8.—The bodies of 44 of the missing 101 victims of the Tuscania disaster were washed up today on the rocks 15 miles from the scene of the torpedoing. All were Americans and their bodies were mutilated beyond recognition.

A pathetic feature is that, although all the victims wore tags, no identification numbers had been put on them because these Americans had not as yet been assigned to definite army units. Therefore, there is no way to identify them and they will be buried in one grave.

Every Soldier Lost Carried Insurance

Washington, Feb. 8.—Every American soldier lost on the Tuscania, having dependents, was protected by government insurance. Many had applied for voluntary insurance, which is issued in amounts up to \$10,000 and all are covered by government compensation payable to widow, child or widowed mother. This automatic insurance aggregates about \$4,300 and is paid at the rate of about \$25 a month for 20 years.

Seven Tar Heels Aboard.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The following North Carolinians are shown on

the list of commissioned officers on board the ill-fated army transport Tuscania:

Second Lieutenant James Osburn Bigger; wife, Mrs. J. C. Bigger, 37 South Front street, New Bern, N. C. Lieutenant Bigger was not attached to a regular unit.

First Lieutenant Milton Pittman; wife, Mrs. Lillian C. Pittman, 210 North Ninth street, Wilmington, N. C., Co. D, sixth battalion, twentieth engineers, U. S. A.

First Lieutenant William C. Buhmann; wife, Mrs. Nannie B. Buhmann, Greensboro, N. C., Co. F, sixth battalion, twentieth engineers, U. S. A.

There were only four North Carolinians in the private ranks of the ill-fated ship. They were:

Lacy E. Evans, brother of Perry Evans, of Route 21, Stem, Granville county. He was before enlisting engaged in marketing cross-ties to the Southern Railway.

James W. Logan, son of John F. Logan, of Route 1, Uree, N. C. Corporal Loomis M. Hales, a brother of Mrs. Blanche Turney, of Clayton.

Corporal Wesley Shell, son of John W. Shell, of Route 1, Sugar Grove.

Their fate will not be known until the list of survivors is completed and checked up, when a list of those lost will be given out by the war department.

TUSCANIA TRAGEDY DUE TO SENATE INQUISITION.

Raleigh, Feb. 7.—"In my opinion the senatorial inquisition of the war department is directly responsible for the sinking of the Tuscania," Governor Bickett hotly writes the New York World this evening and the World had not "drafted" him for an opinion.

The governor sat up late last night reading the cross-examination of Secretary Baker when he became a seething profanity, only he did not cuss. He did not then know that the Germans had sunk the Tuscania. This morning when he read his papers and saw that many boys had been drowned before they were permitted to draw a bead on a boche, the governor burst into this denunciation of the senators and asked the New York World to print it.

"You are in the habit of drafting my opinion on public questions," Governor Bickett yipped today. "For once I am going to volunteer one.

"In my opinion the senatorial inquisition of the war department is directly responsible for the sinking of the Tuscania. They put Baker on the rack and tortured out of him a confession of the gigantic movement of our troops across the seas. Then the enemy knew what was happening and the submarines lurked for their prey.

"This whole inquisition is bottomed on the inordinate vanity of a few senators who seek to pose as the saviours of the nation. Their bill has no more chance to keep out of the congressional trash pile than a food graffer has to keep out of hell. And they know it. And yet, the inquisition continues. Why?"

The governor's telegram created almost as much consternation for an hour or so as the extras that told the story of the ship and its survivors.

AMERICAN SHARPSHOOTERS ROUTE GERMAN SNIPERS.

American sharpshooters on the sector held by the United States forces northwest of Toul on the western front have matched their marksmanship and wits against the skill and experience of the German riflemen opposed to them and thus far have had the advantage. Enemy snipers have been routed from their hiding places among bushes in the hilly, wooded terrain or in shell holes by the expert fire of the Americans. Where the rifle proved unavailing there was brought into action machine guns or light artillery which destroyed the German shelters and made casualties of their occupants.

Major Stedman Honored.

Washington, Feb. 9.—General Julian S. Carr has asked Major Charles M. Stedman to act as assistant adjutant general on his staff. General Carr is commander of the Confederate veterans of northern Virginia. Major Stedman has accepted.

THE LOSS OF LIFE SMALL

GERMAN SUBMARINE POSSIBLY DESTROYED WITH A DEPTH BOMB BY CHASER.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Much satisfaction is found by officials here in the unofficial accounts of the destruction of the British liner Tuscania by a German submarine, which showed a destroyer, presumably British, gave chase to the raider and possibly destroyed her with a depth bomb.

Sorrow over the first loss of a transport laden with American troops is tempered by the growing total of survivors and the dominant emotion among army and navy men now is the desire to strike back.

Loss of Life Small.

As the roll of missing from the Tuscania dwindled today, expressions of amazement were heard frequently that a crowded transport could be torpedoed with such comparatively small loss of life. The nearness of rescue craft, the fact that the vessel was afloat for two hours after a torpedo had exploded in her boiler room and possibly the proximity of the British coast all were factors in reducing the loss.

Army officers say it must be remembered that the troops aboard were not seasoned veterans, not even line men, soldiers into whom every effort has been made to instill discipline which would have stood them in good stead in such an emergency. The fact that most of them were brought safely to land is accepted as evidence, however, that there was no panic. Some jumped overboard, but nearly all bravely stood fast to await their fate.

Character of Troops.

These soldiers were woodsmen of the forestry battalion, men of the supply train, of the engineer train. The most disciplined unit aboard undoubtedly would be the military police. The others are men devoted to hard work behind the lines.

Will Overcome U-Boat Menace.

Navy officials see no reason to change their opinion that the submarine menace is being overcome. The Tuscania incident is regarded as an isolated case, which may serve to develop additional methods for repelling the under sea craft and improving the convoy system. Many devices enter into the battle against the U-boats, some of which have been evolved by American inventors.

There have been indications that the U-boats have learned to fear this ability of American craft to locate them at a distance and maneuver to bring the submerged vessel within range of a depth bomb. With a destroyer in the vicinity, the underwater craft moves carefully far below the surface, depending on mechanical ears which bring to her the propeller beats of the surface vessel. When a destroyer stops to "listen," unhampered by the beat of her own engines, the lurking foe also stops, to lie silent below until the destroyer moves on again.

Was Only One Submarine.

Such details as have come from Europe indicate that the Tuscania was torpedoed by a single submarine which slipped under the advance screen of destroyers leading the convoy. There is no evidence of an attack in force, and the U-boat got into the path of the liner largely by chance. Some times as many as forty vessels make a convoyed fleet.

War department officials would say nothing today as to the destination of the Tuscania. It was admitted that American troops had been sent forward by British trans-Atlantic liners on several occasions. There are reports that the great White Star liner Olympic, the largest of the British merchant fleet and second only to the new American Leviathan, formerly German Vaterland, has been employed in that work.

There is no indication in the loss of the Tuscania that a concentration of submarines against American troop ship lines has been made. On the contrary, the efforts of the German high command still appear to be directed primarily against the cargo craft bound for British ports.

"Bottle Up" Submarines.

Around the navy department there was renewed talk tonight of "bottling up" the submarines. Many officers believe that a way can be found to hold the U-boats within narrow limits and keep the rest of the

AMERICAN PATROL AMBUSHED

FIVE SOLDIERS KILLED, FOUR MISSING AND ONE WOUNDED —A GERMAN TRAP.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 9.—Five American soldiers are believed to have been killed, four are missing and one was wounded, when an American patrol was ambushed in No Man's Land last night by a superior force of Germans.

The spot where the encounter occurred is an isolated one and reports concerning the casualties inflicted by both sides are meager.

Only one American is known to have escaped the trap of the Germans which was laid in front of our wire. The one survivor, who crawled back to the American lines with a bullet in his chest, is unable to talk.

Our artillery immediately laid a barrage around the ambushing Germans and some are believed to have been accounted for. The infantry accounted for others, as it is certain the attacked patrol fought to a finish, according to information trickling in from the front line.

Our patrolling soldiers were walking in front of our wire entanglements when a big enemy patrol that had been divided in parties which took up concealed positions, opened fire at close range. The night was clear and the forms of the Americans made the best possible targets for the hidden Germans. There is no doubt that the Americans battled gallantly until completely overpowered. The artillery duel in our sector continued today. Scores of airplanes were out observing and making photographs. The men in the line were thrilled by a number of air duels high in the sky over their heads.

AN AMERICAN GENERAL NOW COMMANDS TROOPS AT FRONT.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 9.—An American general now commands the sector of the front recently taken over by our troops. When the Americans first entered the sector it was under the command of a French general commanding a certain large unit of the French army. Now we have control.

In turning the sector over to the American general on February 5 the French commander issued a general order in which he expressed complete satisfaction with our troops and was confident that the sector was in good hands and, if attacked, would defend it with great valor.

The order turning the sector over to the Americans, a copy of which was communicated to our forces, read:

"On February 5, the commanding general of — American unit takes command of — sector. The commanding general of — French unit takes occasion to express to the American general, the colonels of artillery and all of the American units, which have been under his orders, complete satisfaction with the way in which the American troops have acquitted themselves of the mission entrusted to them. Their good will and their ardent desire to excel and the rapidity with which they have adapted themselves to life of the sector have brought them the admiration of all. General — hands over the sector with confidence that it is in good hands and that the American troops will organize it with method and the tenacity characterizing American genius, and in case of attack will defend it with great valor."

The weight of American anti-submarine efforts as yet to be brought to bear. What has been accomplished already by American naval forces has been through make-shift devices and converted craft in a great measure. Every week now, however, sees the nearer approach of the day when all the plans and efforts of the navy will bear full fruit and wide extension of the campaign be possible, both in the way of additional fighting craft and improved devices. On this is based the belief that the submarines can be largely curbed before summer.

CAN FURNISH 500,000 AMERICANS ARTILLERY.

New York, Feb. 8.—Announcement that France will be able before July 1 to manufacture enough artillery to supply 20 American divisions, or approximately 500,000 troops, if the United States meanwhile adheres to an understanding by which France would receive the necessary raw material from America, was made here tonight by Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to this country. Mr. Tardieu made the statement also that there are in France more American troops than comprised the American army at the time the United States entered the war; at that time, he said, the American army contained about 212,000 officers and men.

The French official spoke at a dinner which part of New York's celebration of the Jour de L'Alliance Francaise, which was observed throughout the United States and Canada today, the anniversary of the treaty between France and the American colonies in 1778. Jules J. Jusserand, the French ambassador, also was a guest of honor.

AMERICAN BOYS BLOW UP BATTERY.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 8.—Our "heavies" this morning blew up a German battery. A heavy explosion was observed behind the enemy's "camouflage" and the German battery was set afire, one of our shells evidently having landed in a munitions dump.

Sometime prior to this our barrage foiled an attempted raid of two strong enemy patrols, which were unable to advance through our harassing machine gun, automatic rifle and grenade fire.

The German attempt to "strafe" our trenches was answered by effective counter battery work, the Americans joining in breaking up the enemy fire.

Our patrolling activity within the last twelve hours. The enemy patrol activity, on the other hand, is diminishing.

ENEMY'S PLANES DRIVEN OFF BY AMERICANS.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 8.—(By the Associated Press).—Twenty enemy airplanes which endeavored to cross the American lines were violently shelled by the anti-aircraft batteries and driven off.

Rain began falling heavily this afternoon and the pumps are being kept busy in the trenches and dugouts.

Artillery firing continues lively day and night, and the American heavy guns registered well on important enemy positions. The 75's and some heavier are now engaged in shelling a town within the enemy lines, but there are no civilians there. The 75's are continuously shelling the enemy trenches with shrapnel and high explosives.

Among today's casualties was a second lieutenant, who was hit in the arm by a sniper's bullet.

Must Secure License.

Manufacturers of and dealers in commercial feeds for livestock, cattle and hogs must secure license under the food administration by February 15. This covers baled hay, shelled and ear corn and many other commodities intended for use as feeds or as ingredients in mixed feeds. The only exceptions are for millers manufacturing bran and dealers in coarse grains, who have already been placed under food administration licenses.

Applications for license should be addressed to the license division, food administration, Washington, D. C., specifying the nature of the business to be licensed.

Time Extended to Take Out Insurance.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The house today passed the senate resolution extending from February 12 to next April 12 the time within which soldiers and sailors may file applications for war risk insurance. Chairman Sims, of the interstate commerce committee, in urging the resolution, explained that it was necessary before the length of time required for communication between Washington and the American expeditionary forces.

THE AMERICAN BATTLEFRONT

IN FRANCE UNDER CONTINUAL FIRE FROM THE GERMAN GUNNERS.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Under almost ceaseless fire from the German guns, American troops holding a section of the battle front in Lorraine are preparing for a German assault of great magnitude. The repeated raids against American lines since discovery of Pershing's troops in front line trenches about January 20 indicate, military men believe, that the Germans are testing out the strength of the force, preliminary to a heavy assault.

Successive German raids January 20, 21 and 22, apparently launched to identify troops in the American sector, resulted in five Americans killed and ten wounded. There followed a period of several days' pause presumably while reports of results were forwarded to German general headquarters. During this cessation from attack a heavy fire was dropped down continuously on the American trenches. Then January 27 the assaults were resumed in greater violence and with heavier artillery and shrapnel.

All of the German weapons were thrown into this barrage, including gas, with the evident intention of testing the American nerve under stress. Every raid was repulsed by the Americans and the barrage was answered, gun for gun. Through the mists that hangs over No Man's Land there will be ever-increasing numbers of Americans thrown into the battle against the Kaiser and the eyes of the whole world today are centered on the sector held by Pershing's men as the first great stroke against them is awaited.

Already there have come stories of bravery of Americans under fire—stories of soldiers fighting with their fists to resist capture after their guns had been rendered useless. And since the American troops took over their part of the battle front today, daily casualties have netted a total of eight dead and twenty-six wounded in action.

Trapped by Own Artillery.

With the American Armies in France, Feb. 5.—(Delayed).—Facing death from their own artillery, a handful of Sammies, trapped by an American barrage near the boches trenches Monday night, made their way through the rain of shells back to the safety of the American lines. It is some times necessary to risk sacrificing a few to save many. Monday night the handful of Sammies, forming a patrol, were investigating the damage done to the German trench wires by Sunday night's bombardment. An American rocket signal from an adjacent sector suddenly called for a barrage. The rain of death started immediately. The little patrol was up against it—the men facing death from their own shells. They resolved to make a dash for safety.

Spread out in open formation they gradually made their way back to their own trenches through their own barrage, taking refuge from the explosions in shell holes and depressions in No Man's Land. Dodging, ducking, and making short rushes across the shell swept terrain the Americans finally reached their lines and leaped over their parapets. The expected German attack in anticipation of which the barrage was signalled for, failed to develop. It probably was due to the promptness of the American barrage. All day today the American artillery was active. Machine guns chattered periodically along the whole sector. The enemy threw grenades. German shells were scattered over the American supply and transport sections.

Army paymasters visited the American artillery units today. With shouts of welcome the Sammies scrambled from their bomb proofs and lined up to receive their money. Few drew more than \$10 owing to the allotments of their salaries which they have set aside for liberty bond installments. "What can a guy do with money out here?" demanded one little artilleryman, standing with his gas mask ready for use and flourishing a handful of franc notes. Apparently the question was soon answered. Ten minutes later an old blanket was spread out on the ground underneath the trees, and a cluster of Sammies were enjoying a camp fire.