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AMERICAN SHIPS SUNK

German Submarines Sent Down City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilancia Off British Coast

MOST OF CREWS SAVED

Virtually State of War Exists Between United States and Germany—President is Contemplating Call for Immediate Session of Congress

The sinking of the American steamers City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilancia was announced today. Fourteen men from the Vigilancia are missing, as are some of the men from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois was landed safely.

The City of Memphis, in ballast, from Cardiff for New York, was sunk by gunfire. The second officer and fifteen men of the crew have been landed. A patrol boat has gone in search of the other members of the crew. The Illinois, from London for Port Arthur, Texas, in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock this morning. The Vigilancia was torpedoed without warning. The submarine did not appear. The captain, first and second mates, first, second and third engineers, and 23 men of the crew have been landed at the Scilly Islands. The fourth engineer and 13 men are missing.

Washington Dispatch, March 18. With the announcement of the ruthless destruction of three unarmed American merchant ships by submarines, it was unofficially admitted here tonight that virtually a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Technically the United States remains in a position of armed neutrality. Whether this shall be changed before April 16, the date fixed for a special session of Congress, the war-making branch of the government, President Wilson has not decided.

One step the President is contemplating is a call for an immediate session of Congress to hear an address asking for authority to adopt aggressive measures against the submarine menace.

Navy to Make Next Move

Already American ships are being armed to defend themselves. The next move must be to send warships with orders to seek out submarines and clear the trans-Atlantic lanes.

Some of the highest officials of the government hold that the executive has the power to declare that a state of war exists and to proceed with aggressive protective steps pending the assembling of Congress. There is no indication, however, that the President will follow that course.

Of the three ships destroyed, two were unloaded and homeward bound and all were American built. American owned and officered and manned largely by American citizens. Meager dispatches indicate that all were sunk with complete disregard for the safety of those on board, and that many of the crew may have been lost.

Must Form Definite Policy

Today's developments brought the government face to face with the problem of formulating a definite policy for the nation in case the United States actually enters the war. This possibility was mentioned by the President in his inaugural address March 5.

All of the conditions outlined by the President in his message announcing the diplomatic break with Germany as leading to a state of armed neutrality have now been fulfilled. The "overt act" described by him then has actually come, if in fact it had not been committed when the President went before Congress. Since then he has established a state of armed neutrality without the specific authority of Congress.

International lawyers and constitutional experts here showed no hesitancy in saying that President Wilson has full authority to interpret as an act of war, and announce that this country considers that an actual state of war exists by reason of Germany's flagrant assault on American shipping. Such action would be subject to the approval of Congress.

Despite the unwarmed sinking of big passenger liners like the California and the Laconia, the jeopardizing of Americans on nearly a score of other vessels and the sinking of three other American ships, the Housatonic, the Lyman M. Law and the Algonquin, since the unrestricted warfare began, some officials, inspired by the President's announced reluctance to believe that Germany would carry through her threat, have clung desperately to the hope that some slight respect for international law might still be shown.

Pessimistic Forecasts Surpassed

The German undersea warfare may fairly be stated, however, to have surpassed even the most pessimistic forecasts here. That she actually means to send every vessel to the bottom that dares to venture within her forbidden zones is now accepted as a fact. Neutral, passenger, Belgian relief, appear to be all in the same category.

With the practical certainty that this country will become involved in hostility, even if only for the keeping open of the sea lanes to Europe,

RAILROAD STRIKE OFF

Announcement Made Early This Morning by Official of Conference Committee—Result of Conferences Which Followed Appeal Made by President Wilson

A New York dispatch of the 19th states that an official of the conference committee of railroad managers announced at 12:45 this morning that the railroad strike was off.

This announcement did not come as a surprise after the news in yesterday's papers that a 48-hours truce had been declared in New York late Saturday between the 4 railroad brotherhoods and the railroads, thus averting the great "progressive" strike that was to have begun at 7 p. m. Saturday.

President Wilson had appealed to the brotherhoods chiefs and the railroads managers to accommodate their differences and avert a strike, which would be a national calamity and would imperil the safety of the nation just at this time, and a conference was begun Saturday in New York between a committee of mediators representing the Council of National Defense, appointed with the approval of the President, and the brotherhoods chief and railroad managers.

The early morning dispatch from New York which stated that the strike was off states further that a few minutes after the announcement was made the railroad managers went from the Grand Central terminal to the conference hotel and were joined immediately by the mediators, that the brotherhoods men arrived at 1:20 and immediately went to the conference room. No statement had been made up to the hour the dispatch was sent as to the basis upon which the strike was averted.

BRITISH CAPTURE BAPAUME

First and Perhaps Main Objective in Long British Advance in That Sector—March 17 Memorable Day for French

After many months at hammering at the German lines in the Somme sector, the British armies at last have captured Bapaume, considered the first and perhaps the main objective in the long British advance in that sector. At the same time the town of Le Transloy and Achiet-Le-Petit also fell to the British. General Haig's troops entered Bapaume Saturday morning after severe fighting, and found the town in flames, the Germans having fired it.

French troops north of the Avre river and between the Avre and the Oise have thrust their way forward to a depth of about two and a half miles along a 13-mile front.

The German war office admits a retirement of the German forces along a five-mile front between Beauvais and Lassigny in the Oise region, as well as between Sailly and St. Pierre Vaast wood, on the Somme front.

Paris Dispatch, March 18.

The seventeenth of March will remain among the most memorable days of the war, in the opinion of the French, who regard the success on the front from the Ancre to the Oise as the greatest since the battle of the Marne. It is considered not merely a local success, but a veritable strategic retreat forced upon the Germans, the full consequences of which probably will not be revealed for several days. The fact that the French at certain points went beyond the road from Roye to Nonoy indicates that the German retreat will not end there.

Recorder's Court

McKay Byrd and H. L. Summitt were before Recorder E. M. Britt Saturday charged with assault upon "Bud" Singletary. Byrd was found not guilty, while Summitt was found guilty and was taxed with the costs. Purd Pittman was also given a hearing Saturday on the charge of trespass. Judgment was suspended upon payment of cost.

—Middling cotton today 17 1/4 cents.

Officials are scanning the war news with the closest scrutiny. An advance on the west front, or Mesopotamia, is now studied with the keen eagerness born of a realization that it may have a direct effect on America's future.

Beginning of End Believed Near

The kaleidoscopic developments of the last few weeks history has been followed most keenly. The apparent crumbling of Turkish power in Mesopotamia and Persia as shown in the capture of Van today by the Russians, following the fall of Baghdad to the British, the unexpected sweeping forward of both British and French in a wide swath on the front, the pro-war revolution in Russia, threats of international trouble in Germany and China's severance of relations, have served to convince many observers that the beginning of the end is near.

The German retreat in France is not yet accepted as more than strategic, however. The Russian revolution, too, is admitted to hold possibilities of counter revolution which will greatly cripple the military efficiency and in some quarters it is held confidently that Germany still has strength for another great offensive.

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WILL NOT BE MUSTERED OUT

Order Suspended for Demobilizing Second and Third Regiments—Charlotte Offers Mobilization Camp for First Regiment

Raleigh Dispatch, March 18. An order from the War Department was received at the adjutant general's office here today suspending the order for the mustering out of the Second and Third North Carolina regiments of the National guard and brigade headquarters and directing that they be held under arms after arrival.

The Third regiment is on its way to Raleigh, having been sent here from Texas to muster out. The Second regiment has not yet started from El Paso, but is now in readiness to entrain for Goldsboro where it was to have been mustered out. Charlotte Tenders Mobilization Camp for First Infantry

Charlotte Dispatch, March 18. Acting Adjutant-General George L. Peterson, at Raleigh, today telegraphed Mayor T. L. Kirkpatrick asking if Charlotte would provide a mobilization camp for the First North Carolina infantry. Tonight a camp site was tendered the State and lights, water, barracks and railway facilities were offered without cost to the State or Federal government. Whether this is a merely preparatory step was not made known.

Mustered Out of First S. C. Regiment is Halted

Columbia, S. C., Dispatch, March 18. The mustering out of the Second South Carolina infantry, recently returned from the border and in camp at Styx, S. C., near here, was stopped today on receipt of orders directing the Federal mustering officer to await further instructions. Only the sanitary detachments of the organization had been discharged from Federal service when the orders were received. No leaves and furloughs were to be granted, it was said.

MARRIED IN HASTE AND YOU KNOW THE REST

Married at 2 A. M. After 6 Hours Acquaintance and Agreed to Separate After 4 Days

Perhaps you have heard of love at first sight—and now you are going to hear of a marriage at first sight. However, the marriage was not of a long duration so far as living together was concerned. This is the story as told by the contracting parties. Mr. Clarence Smith met Miss Jessie Brown at her home town, Chadbourne, Tuesday night of last week and they at once agreed to get married. The young man with the young lady and her mother boarded an auto and went to Whiteville, secured the proper credentials and were married at 2 of the clock Tuesday morning—just six hours after the bride and groom first met.

The newly-married couple came to Lumberton Friday morning and stopped at Mrs. Geo. Warwick's boarding house. Saturday morning the bride and groom decided mutually that they had a plenty of married life and the bride returned to her home at Chadbourne. In discussing the matter the groom remarked that he was glad to get rid of his wife and he guessed that the experience would teach him a lesson.

Red Springs Man Perhaps Fatally Injured in Auto Accident

It was learned by long-distance phone at 12:30 this afternoon that the condition of Mr. Edwin Callahan of Red Springs, who was injured when an auto in which he was riding turned over Wednesday night of last week, is still in a critical condition in the Highsmith hospital at Fayetteville. He was unconscious and has been in that condition almost all the time since he was taken to the hospital. He is suffering with concussion of the brain.

Mr. Callahan, aged 39, and Mr. Rufus McQueen were fox-hunting in an auto last Wednesday night in Robeson county when the machine, going at a high rate of speed, struck a hole and turned over. Mr. Callahan received a blow on the head which rendered him unconscious and his recovery is doubtful. Mr. McQueen escaped with an injured shoulder. The men were found by other members of the hunting party and Mr. Callahan was taken to Fayetteville. He is a brother of Mrs. Wm. Horne of Fayetteville.

MEN WANTED FOR NAVY

Recruiting Tent Will be Erected in Lumberton April 6

Supt. J. R. Poole has received a letter from John J. London, lieutenant, U. S. navy, to the effect that he will have a recruiting tent erected in Lumberton on April 6, the day of the county commencement. Two recruiting officers will be here on that date for the purpose of launching a campaign to get men for the navy. A large number of interesting naval pictures will be on display at the tent.

Jurors Need Not Report Until April 3rd

Mr. C. B. Skipper, clerk of the Superior court, asks The Robesonian to say that while Superior court will convene for the trial of civil cases on Monday, April 2, it is not necessary for the jurors summoned to come on Monday to report before Tuesday, April 3. There will not be any jury trials on Monday, as this will be motion day.

PREPARING FOR DEBATE

One of Lumberton's Representatives This Year is a Girl—Preliminary Debates on 30th Inst.

Lumberton's high school debaters are already preparing for the preliminary debates which will be held on the 30th inst. to determine what schools in the State may go to Chapel Hill to contest in the second preliminary. The query to be debated is, "Resolved, That the Government should own and operate the railroads". The affirmative will be represented at home by Messrs. Robert Proctor and Forest McGill, while a team from the Wilmington high school will defend the negative here. Miss Evelyn Sentelle and Mr. John B. McLeod will uphold the negative side of the query at Goldsboro. This is the first year Lumberton has allowed a girl to speak in these debates, but other schools have been sending out girl debaters all the while.

If both teams of a school win in the first preliminary that school is allowed to send its speakers to Chapel Hill to enter a second contest, and if both teams of the school win out in the preliminary there, half of the team, is allowed to enter the final contest for the Aycock Memorial cup.

SPECIAL TRAIN MARCH 29

Seaboard Will Operate Special of 10 Coaches Maxton to Lumberton for County Commencement Colored Schools

Prof. J. R. Poole, county superintendent of public instruction, has been informed by the Seaboard officials that a special train of 10 coaches will be operated from Maxton to Lumberton on Thursday, March 29, on account of the county commencement for colored schools. The round-trip fare from Maxton will be 55 cents, from Alma 50 cents, from Red Banks 35 cents and from Pembroke 30 cents. The schedule has not been arranged, but the train will leave Maxton before the regular east-bound train which arrives at Lumberton at 10:05.

Movements of the People Up Shannon Way

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Shannon, March 17.—Prof. F. F. Thompson spent the week-end with friends near Maxton.—Miss Mary Ella Conoly is visiting her brother Mr. T. J. Conoly of Raeford. We are sorry to report Miss Wyatt McKinnon, our assistant teacher, on the sick list. We hope for her a speedy recovery. Miss Eunice Pearsall of Red Springs taught for her the first part of the week and Mrs. G. I. Klapp the latter part of the week.

Mrs. Arch Cobb and son, Alexander, of Maxton, visited Mrs. Cobb's mother, Mrs. M. A. Currie, Sunday.—Miss Nora Walters, who has been attending school at Columbia, S. C., returned home last week on account of trouble with her eyes.—Miss Lamont McCall of McColl, S. C., is visiting her aunt Mrs. M. A. Currie.—Miss Margaret Spears of Clio, S. C., has returned home after a visit to her sister Mrs. Otis Parish.—Miss Mabel Walters is visiting relatives near Maxton.—Mr. James MacLaren has been visiting Mr. J. L. MacLaren here this week. Mrs. D. J. Currie has been right sick this week but we are glad to learn she is somewhat improved and hope she will soon be well again.

Precautionary Instructions to State Adjutants General

Washington Dispatch, March 16. In preparation for any demand upon the army that may grow out of the German crisis, the militia bureau of the War Department has sent precautionary instructions to all State adjutants general outlining the plan to be followed in the event of the calling out of the national guard for Federal service.

The intention had been to take this step quietly and without publicity, but reports from various points indicating that it was being construed as meaning that mobilization was imminent, caused department officials to announce the instructions with the explanation that they constituted purely a routine measure of preparedness, necessary in order to prevent, if a call should come, such confusion as attended the assembling of guardsmen for border service.

Demonstrate Cost of Maintenance of Drainage Canals

Messrs. H. M. Lynde and G. L. Smith from the office of public drainage investigation of the U. S. government, Washington, D. C., arrived last week and have begun an investigation of methods of maintenance of drainage canals on the Back Swamp and Jacob Swamp canals. They will have about two miles of the Jacob Swamp canal between the Fairmont and Levett road, near Lumberton, cleaned out, and the banks cleaned off, also about two miles on the Back Swamp canal, near Back Swamp church. This work will be continued each year for the purpose, different methods of maintenance being tried on the two canals to determine the most practical and cheapest way of maintaining the canals dug for drainage purposes.

Visitors From Boardman

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Messrs. Clegg Fields, Henry Williams, Edgar Simmons, Charlie White, Hartley Britt and Palmer West, all from Boardman, were in Lumberton Friday.

FAIRMONT NEWS LETTER

Movements of the People—A Glance at Those Who Come and Go

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Fairmont, March 17.—Mr. Geo. H. Bullock of Canton, Ohio, is visiting his sister Mrs. Van H. Taylor, this week.

Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Jenkins and Mrs. A. J. Floyd spent Thursday in Lumberton shopping.

Miss Mary Belle Ricks, who is a student at Meredith college, Raleigh, is home for a few days visiting her parents, Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Ricks.

Messrs. Ernest McLean and J. H. Anderson were Dillon visitors Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. O. I. Floyd, Mrs. J. L. Watson and Mrs. Will Thompson spent Friday afternoon in Lumberton. Mr. Dan Prevatt of Orrum was a Fairmont visitor Thursday.

Mr. Eppie Graham of Proctorville was in town Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Pittman visited their mother, Mrs. Sarah Pittman. Mrs. Frank Jones of McDonald is a Fairmont visitor today.

Mrs. Nathan Anderson is spending a while with her son Dr. H. T. Andrews of Rowland.

Mesdames D. C. Lassiter, J. H. Anderson and J. O. Bobbitt spent Friday in Lumberton shopping.

Quite a number of ladies attended Miss Annie McMillan's millinery opening Wednesday and Thursday.

Miss Dora Thompson and mother of McDonald, are visitors in town today.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Robert Jacobs, who is in the Thompson hospital, Lumberton, is doing fine.

Mr. O. L. Barnes of Wananish, who recently bought out the grocery store belonging to Mr. A. L. McDaniel, has moved his family here. We are glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Barnes to our town.

Mr. J. H. Tyner, who held a position with the Fairmont barber shop, has accepted a position in Wilmington.

Mr. Paul Oliver of Marietta was a Fairmont visitor Friday.

Messrs. Monis Pace and Charlie Grantham of Lakeview were Fairmont visitors this week.

Mr. Julian Price and Miss Mary Bowman spent Friday afternoon in Fairmont.

Mesdames W. A. McPhaul and Jake Thompson of Lumberton were Fairmont visitors Friday.

Messes Annie Reade Lewis, Loris Forney DuVal, Kate Hinds and Mary Lee Dibble of Whiteville spent the week-end with Miss Lorena Lewis.

Miss Donnie Greyard, who is teaching in Lumberton, passed thru town Saturday en route to her home at McDonald.

Mr. Ernest Jones, the popular buyer for A. Collins of Charlotte, is spending the week-end with his parents Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Jones.

Miss Mamie Holloway is spending the week-end with relatives in Laurinburg.

Miss Elsie Flowers is spending the week-end in Lumberton.

Mr. J. D. Kyle, member of the Marrow-Kyle & Son Tobacco Co., Augusta, Ky., returned home Saturday morning.

Little Miss Vista Thompson is spending the week-end with Little Miss Esther Brown.

BROAD RIDGE BREEZES

Farmers Busy—School Work—How to Make Hens Lay

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Broad Ridge (Lumberton, R. 4), March 17.—Farmers around here are preparing for another crop. Some of them are wanting to plant corn. Old Long Branch produces poets like the Mt. Elijam correspondent said by the Broad Ridge. It sounds like Longfellow to read his "poems".

BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

—Pennie Rozier, colored, aged 22 years, died at her home about 3 miles north-east of town Saturday.

—Messrs. Jno. C. Fuller and Frank McLeod went Thursday night to Wilson and returned Friday across country with two Reo automobiles for C. M. Fuller & Son.

—Dr. R. S. Beam, local eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, returned Saturday from Philadelphia, Pa., where he spent two weeks attending the clinics of that city.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Rockwell Anderson and Zillie Stephens; Andrew C. Blount and Julia A. Blackwell; Tom Connor and Mary Davis.

—Mrs. W. S. Britt returned Thursday night from Kershaw, S. C., where she spent some time on account of the illness and death of her father, Mr. W. U. Clyburn, whose death occurred on the 3rd inst.

—The Lumberton graded and high schools will close May 25. Lieut. Governor O. Max Gardner has been secured to make the literary address on that date. Mr. Gardner is classed as one of the best public speakers in the State.

—Prof. J. R. Poole, county superintendent of public instruction, visited the public schools at Harmony, Floral college and Wakulla Friday. He reports good attendance at all these schools and good work being done by both teachers and pupils.

—Mr. J. T. Barker has been critically ill at his home, East Fifth street, since Wednesday night of last week with head trouble. Mrs. A. J. Tinkham of Wilmington, a daughter of Mr. Barker, arrived Saturday night to be with her father.

—Speaking of the high price of Irish potatoes, Saturday Senator Frank Gough placed a half dozen nice potatoes in one of the show windows at White & Gough's store with a sign reading, "For Sale or Will Exchange for a Ford". And a Ford is a perfectly good car at that.

—Mr. C. W. Page of Howellsville township was a Lumberton visitor Friday. His father, Mr. W. C. Page, is demonstration agent for the Real Estate Trading Co. of Benson and he and his five sons have moved to the 5th Smith place, on route 7 from Lumberton, to develop the place.

—Mr. J. W. Dimerson will be at the store of Messrs. R. D. Caldwell & Son Saturday of this week for the purpose of demonstrating Fry's patent combination subsoil and turning plow. The plow is a two-in-one product. No doubt many farmers will see the demonstration Saturday.

—Mr. Floyd Britt, who lives on R. 4 from Lumberton, was in town Saturday. Mr. Britt told a Robesonian reporter about a man he knew who swapped a peck of hen eggs for a peck of Irish potatoes and gave the potato dealer 10 cents "to boot". Both potatoes and eggs are bringing a handsome price.

—Messrs. Owen Ward, O. L. Ward and R. Hedgpath of the Nye section passed through town Saturday en route home from Fayetteville, where they took Mrs. M. H. Warwick of that section to a hospital. Mrs. Warwick underwent an operation and was getting on fine when they left Fayetteville.

—Mrs. R. E. Sentelle, who has been under treatment for tuberculosis at Montrose sanatorium for three months, spent last week with home folks. Mrs. Sentelle's health is rapidly improving and she has gained 18 pounds during the three months she has been under treatment. She will spend 3 months more at the sanatorium.

—Mr. C. H. Gibbon, traveling examiner of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, spent Saturday in Lumberton and gave an examination to two applicants, both male, for clerks in the departmental service. Mr. Gibbon was assisted in the work by Local Examiner R. O. Edmund. Mr. Gibbon says it is the intention of the department he represents to make Lumberton a general point for giving examinations for stenographers, etc. The dates of the examinations will be published in The Robesonian.

—Julius F. Stephens, who lives on R. 1 from Lumberton, and G. M. Tucker of Lumberton declared war upon each other on the streets in front of the Pastime theatre about 10:15 o'clock Saturday night. There was no roar of cannons while the battle was on, but the fists of each combatant were used quite freely. There was some blood in evidence when the battle was over, but nobody was "kilt" or dangerously wounded. The cause of the fight has not been learned. No arrest was made.

—Miss Irene McLeod, teacher of expression in the graded school, and her class will give a comic opera, "An Admless Eden" in the local opera house at an early date. The exact date will be announced later. An admission fee of 10 cents will be charged to meet the expense of the opera. No children under 12 years old will be admitted unless with their parents. Those who have been attending the entertainments given by Miss McLeod and her class will be pleased to learn that they are soon to give another.

—Last night the temperature felt very much like winter was still on. There was some ice this morning and the safety of the peach crop is feared for.

—It is reported that a number of small town boys got so rough at the union station yesterday afternoon that a policeman was called. The boys vanished before a policeman arrived, however.

—Born to Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Martin, at their home on East Fifth street, at 7 a. m. yesterday, an eight-and-a-half-pound boy. Mrs. Martin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Jones, arrived yesterday morning from their home in Richmond and Mrs. Martin will be a guest at the home of her son-in-law and daughter for some time. Mr. Jones will leave tonight for Richmond.

LET US MAKE YOUR SPRING SUIT

A representative of the well-known tailoring establishment of Schloss Bros of Baltimore will be at our store March 21 and 22 with a full line of samples. Call and have your measure taken. Popular prices and satisfaction guaranteed. White & Gough.