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GERMAN HAND SEEN IN HALIFAX DISASTER

Claimed That Helmsman of the Imo Was a German Spy.

NOW UNDER ARREST

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 18—John Johansen, helmsman on the Norwegian steamer Imo, the Belgian relief ship, which collided with the ammunition steamer Mont Blanc, causing the disastrous exploding of last week, was held as a German spy suspect today. He was turned over to the military authorities by the Massachusetts relief hospital. He has been under treatment there.

A hospital nurse called attention to Johansen yesterday. She had noticed he was acting strangely and that he did not seem to be hurt. Her report led to another examination of Johansen by the physicians. The conclusion was reached that the man was feigning illness.

A watch developed that Johansen was making desperate efforts to leave the institution.

A military guard was placed over him later Captain Henry G. Lapham, of the Massachusetts State unit, sent for the provost guard and Johansen was locked up.

Rumors circulated that eight Germans had been shot at sunrise. Military authorities, while admitting the Johansen matter was being investigated, called the shooting story foolish.

Another rumor had it that a secret German code had been found on Johansen and that a wireless station had been unearthed on shores shortly after the explosion.

This was declared without foundation. Johansen, his attorney said, had been living in the United States ten years and as he was anxious to return to his home in Norway, he shipped on the Imo.

Atlanta Dec. 15—The entire membership of the Fulton county exemption board has been summarily dismissed by the provost marshal general by orders from President Wilson on charges involving "unwarranted exemptions and discharges," according to a statement made public tonight by Major Joel B. Mallet officer in charge of the operation of the selective service law in Georgia. The city of Atlanta is in Fulton county.

According to statistics made public of 818 white men called in the county 526 were exempted.

Of the total number of white men summoned before the board, the announcement said 44 per cent were exempted on physical grounds. It was also alleged that 202 negroes were examined by the board and out of this number six were exempted.

It was pointed out that inasmuch as the county quota had already been sent to camp and in view of the fact the new draft regulations are about to become operative, the provost marshal general had directed that it will be unnecessary to re-examine any of the registrants exempted or discharged by the board.

The board's case it was announced had been turned over to the Department of Justice.

ALLIES PREPARED FOR GERMAN DRIVE

It Is Declared Impossible For Germany to Achieve Success.

MORALE EXCELLENT

Washington, Dec. 15—France and Great Britain are ready for a German smash. This opinion was expressed today by an officer of one of the allied missions who is in daily touch with military and political considerations at home will compel the German high command to such a step and that the military conditions in the field, which he outlines will make it a fruitless one. Here are the military conditions.

1. The allies at the present moment have a slight numerical superiority on the west front.

2. England has a million men at home whom she can pour over the channel if needed. France can still call two more classes of young men.

It requires 825 German railroad trains each performing a journey of at least 54 hours to move a half million men from the east to the west.

4. Under the conditions of winter attacks against the allied line the Germans must be numerically superior by more than two to one if they would be successful.

All of which summed up means that it will be impossible for the Germans to establish a numerical superiority throughout the west front and if they establish a numerical superiority at any one point a "possible through" can be met and covered even more effectually than did the Germans meet and cover the British break through at Cambrai.

"We see the familiar phenomenon of coupling a military with a political drive," said the member of the mission referred to. "German psychological strategists are seeking to depress allied morale along the line the possibility of which was hinted in the Lansdowne letter. They threaten further desolation and they offer peace. But France England and the United States are neither Russia nor Italy. The inter-allied council and the utterances which have followed it, notably President Wilson's message to congress and Lloyd-George's speech last night demonstrate that the German political campaign has failed. It now remains to be seen whether the big German business interests, who seem to be seeking peace, may be placated by a huge military effort an effort foredoomed to failure."

Leo Benoit, U. S. A. Aviator Breaks Both Legs in Fall.

Paris, Saturday, Dec. 15.—Leo Benoit, an aviator of Attelberg Mass., fell with his machine Thursday while making a flight over the grounds at a French aviation school. Benoit's legs were broken. He was taken to a hospital, where he is reported to be resting comfortably.

Charles J. Biddle, of Andalusia Pa., and Phelps Collins, of Detroit, Mich., both members of the Lafayette flying squadron, have each brought down a German machine within the last week.

Next to the Kaiser, Lenin and Trotsky, the Russian traitors and German Agents most richly deserve the fate that may yet be theirs.

ITALIANS DEFEATED AGAIN BY ITALIANS

Caprille Hill is Again Attacked by the Enemy Who Suffers Heavy Casualties.

THE PERIOD OF VIRTUAL INACTIVITY

The period of virtual inactivity continues in France and Belgium except for reciprocal bombardments in various sectors and here and there small operations by reconnoitering parties. Only on the northern Italian front have there been sanguinary encounters between the opposing infantry and in these the Austro-German forces again were defeated in attempts to advance toward the Venetian plains.

Caprille Hill, at the head of the San Lorenzo valley, where last week the Italians were forced to cede ground, again has been attacked by the enemy, but the operation brought him nothing but heavy casualties as he was driven back to his former line.

German naval forces again have made a foray into the North Sea and surprised a convoy of merchant ships, sinking one British and five neutral vessels and four mine sweepers.

Of two British destroyers, escorting the vessels, one was sunk and the other damaged. The German forces, so far as known consisted of four destroyers. Whether any of their vessels were hit has not been made known.

The German war craft recently have been operating close to the English coast has been made known officially in the house of commons by official announcement on December 12th that two merchantmen and a trawler were off the mouth of the Tyne river.

The official text of the armistice between the Russians and the Teutonic allies confirms the unofficial reports that it is to run from December 17 until January 14. The compact embraces all the fighting fronts where Russian troops have been engaged and also extends to the naval forces of the contracting parties.

Court Martial Will Try Fifteen More Negroes.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 15.—Fifteen soldiers of companies I and M, 24th United States Infantry, have been ordered to appear before a court martial at Fort Sam Houston Monday on charges involving death penalties in connection with the riots at Houston Texas, August 23 last. The men are charged with the murder of E. M. Jones, jitney driver, who was killed the night of the riot.

The same court which recently passed on the cases of 63 negroes of the same company will preside except that it will consist of twelve officers instead of thirteen.

Lieuts. Cook and Prouse.

Two more Fayetteville boys have won officers commissions. They are Messrs. L. M. Prouse son of Mr. W. M. Prouse, the obliging agent Southern Express Co., here and H. L. Cook Jr., son of Hon. H. L. Cook of this city. Both receive commissions as 1st Lieut. Lieut. Prouse graduates from the army training camp at Plattsburg while Lieut. Cook is at Jefferson Medical college and will be allowed to take medical degree before entrance into the army Medical Corps.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ANCIENT HEBRON

Washington, D. C. With the exception of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Damascus, there is not a city in the Holy Land which holds greater interest for the Bible student than the ancient town of Hebron whose capture by British forces under General E. H. E. Allenby was announced recently.

Hebron is a ribbon of a town running along the eastern slope of a narrow valley, above which are terraced vineyards and fruit orchards of great fertility. It is not more than 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem and in peace times tourists are accustomed to make the journey by carriage in four and a half hours.

Until captured and pillaged by the Calibites as recorded in the Book of Joshua Hebron was known as Kirjath-Arba. It is one of the most ancient cities in the world, having been founded, according to the Book of Numbers, "seven years before Zoan in Egypt."

The name of Hebron means 'The Friend of God' in other words the city of Abraham. A tree standing in the Russian hospice garden, half a mile from the city is known as the Oak of Abraham. It will be remembered that it was under the oaks of Mamre that the patriarch pitched his tents and he is supposed to have built an altar here in 1920 B. C.

When Moses sent his spies into the land of Canaan Hebron was one of the cities visited. It was here that David was anointed king over Judah and that six of his sons were born including Absalom who at a later date made this place the rebellion against his father. It was also here that Abner, captain of Saul's hosts and guardian of Saul's son Ish-besheth was killed by Joab.

Hebron was fortified by Rehoboam and was re-peopled after the return of the Children of Israel from captivity. Following the Biblical days Hebron was destroyed by the Romans. It became a place of importance under Moslem rule, not only on account of its commerce but also because of its connection with Abraham, who is venerated by the followers of Mohammed. During the Crusades it was occupied by the Christians for a short time and became the seat of a Latin Bishop in 1167, but it was recaptured by the Moslems under Saladin twenty years later.

The most conspicuous building in Hebron is the Haram with its ramparts dating from the Herodian period. Within the enclosure are modern cenotaphs of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah Rebecca and Leah. These are above the double cavern of Machpelah, which was purchased by Abraham from Ephron the Hittite as a family burial place when Sarah died. The tombs of the patriarchs are covered with richly embroidered green cloths, while those of their wives are covered with crimson draperies.

The population of Hebron is variously estimated at from 10,000 to 22,000 and the number of Jews at from 500 to 2,000. The town was a thriving trading center before the war, the Bedouins finding here an active demand for their bales of wool and cam-

NATIONAL PROHIBITION WINS 282 TO 128

Washington, Dec. 17.—National prohibition won in the house today and only the adjustment of a slight difference in resolutions between the house and senate now stands in the way of submitting to state legislatures an amendment to the Federal constitution forbidding the manufacture, sale or importation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in the United States or its territories.

The vote in the house, taken after a day of debate before crowded galleries, was 282 to 128 with the parties dividing almost evenly. The margin for prohibition was just eight votes more than the necessary two-thirds of the membership of the house required for adoption and 28 more than two-thirds of those voting.

Both wets and dries had been predicting victory all day and it was not until the last few names had been called that the anti-prohibition forces conceded their defeat. When Speaker Clark announced the result the victors were joined by the galleries in such a demonstration as is rarely permitted in the house.

The resolution adopted by the house is identical with that passed by the senate last August, except that it gives the states seven years instead of six in which to ratify the amendment. Senator Sheppard, author of the resolution, predicted tonight that the senate would accept the amendment tomorrow. He said he had assurances, that the seven-year period would be approved and that he did not believe a roll-call necessary.

The president's approval is not required and the state legislatures may act as soon as they please after Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark have signed the resolution.

Every attempt today to put amendments to except light wines and beers was beaten and 141 democrats stood with 137 republicans and four independents to win the final victory for the prohibitionist forces.

Premier Pays Tribute to the House Mission.

London, Dec. 15.—When a correspondent of The Associated Press called on Premier Lloyd-George with the news of the arrival in America of the House mission, the premier authorized the following statement:

"I am very glad to learn of the return of the first great American mission to Europe. I say first because I hope it will be the prelude to many more, for the experiences we have gained on this occasion has brought home to me even more strongly than before the paramount importance of even closer and more constant association between the United States, the free democracies of Europe and the nation of the British Commonwealth, not only in the prosecution of the war but in future contact in the world's af-

airs. The mission which has thus successfully terminated its labors was, so far as we are concerned, an unqualified success. The fruits of its labors will be seen by all in time to come. It not only enabled the United States and the allies to co-ordinate their preparations against the common enemy; it brought fresh minds and a new perspective to bear upon the problems of the allies. This work culminated in the first meeting of the supreme war council at Versailles. To that conference President Wilson could not have sent more sagacious and useful representatives than Colonel House and the other members of the mission who accompanied him. Colonel House, indeed, has proved himself not only a worthy representative of the United States, but has won the friendship and respect of all the European allies."

Help our Country and Allies Win the Greatest War Ever Waged.

The Treasury Department of the United States makes a direct appeal through the postoffice, the city and rural carriers and others who will be appointed local agents for the sale of war saving stamps on the plan named below.

Thrift stamps of the denomination of only twenty five cents will be offered by all employees of the postal service, the purchaser is entitled to a certificate to which the stamp will be affixed when as many as sixteen have been purchased and affixed to the certificate they are to be refunded to the postmaster or other appointed local agents with cash payment of from twelve to twenty three cents owing to the month in which the exchange is made for a war savings stamp of \$5.00 which is redeemable by the Government on Jan. 1st, 1923. This war savings stamp is also to be attached to certificate and registered at postoffice in the name of the purchaser (this protects you in case of the loss of your certificate with stamps). What becomes of the money I pay for a stamp?

It is a loan to the United States Government.

How can my 25 cents really help?

A loan of 25 cents by every person in the Nation will provide the United States Government with 25 million dollars.

To buy enough of these stamps now for which you will receive \$100.00 on Jan. 1st, 1925 will cost you only \$2.40, this is a great savings scheme and when once started and is perfectly safe as you are simply lending your own Government such small amounts as will not be missed, receiving good interest at a specified time, those of the humblest homes are now in position to aid in this great work, let all join in and help save the country.

Ask anyone in the employment of the postal service or those who will be appointed local sales agents later, they will explain fully the plan of raising an additional war savings fund of \$2,000,000,000 in this simple and easy way, beginning with only the small amount of 25 cents.

J. B. Underwood, Postmaster.

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The senate agreed to the bill as passed the House and sent to the President, who may sign or refuse but it is the same having passed by a vote of 20 to 0 of both houses.

Two thirds of the State legislatures must adopt it in order for it to become a part of the constitution.