

WEATHER FORECAST. North Carolina—Fair tonight and probably Sunday; light frost in exposed places tonight; rising temperature Sunday. South Carolina—Fair tonight and probably Sunday; rising temperature.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

VOL. XXIII. NO. 79. WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 7, 1917. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

RAIDERS NOW OFF ATLANTIC COAST

Germans Blow-Up Ship Before Surrender

THRILL SENT THROUGH THE BIG COUNTRY

German Commerce Destroyers Reported Off Virginia Capes and Rhode Island

WARNING GOES OUT TO SHIPPING

Navy Becomes Instantly On Guard and Active Steps Taken to Run Down Such Ships—Raider Appears a 10,000-ton Ship.

Washington, April 7.—Reports of German commerce raiders off Atlantic coast were flashed along the seaboard today and all shipping practically was held up while naval patrols went out to establish the identity of mysterious ships reported near the lanes.

It was the first breath of war at the doors of America and it sent a thrill through the country.

The first report came from Nantucket light a vessel, which saw a strange ship passing west at 7:20 o'clock this morning and promptly reported it to the Boston navy yard and the Navy Department. Destroyer flotillas are at sea in the vicinity and presumably they heard the wireless warning which swept the coast line, and set out to locate the mysterious craft. Meanwhile shipping was warned not to venture out.

Soon afterward a report of a raider off the Virginia capes came from Hampton Roads, where shipping also was held in port while armed craft went to sea to investigate.

Navy officials expect many reports of raiders along the seaboard while excitement is at high tension, and many such probably will turn out to be unoffending tramps. No precautions are being overlooked, however, and the naval patrol is on the alert to examine all strange ships.

Officials considered it would be strange for a raider to venture so close to ports which are known to be guarded. They would expect a raider to be off at sea on the edge of the shipping lanes instead of venturing close enough to shore to be observed and reported.

It is considered not improbable that the wireless warnings caused by the mysterious ship passing Nantucket were heard all along the coast, and might be responsible for other reports of a commerce raider lying in wait.

Navy Ready For Action.

Newport, R. I., April 7.—The first alarm of the German-American war was sounded off the New England coast today. Just before 8 a. m., the Nantucket shoals lightship flashed to the Naval radio station here that a German commerce raider had passed the lightship bound west.

Instantly plans of the Navy for just such a situation became operative and while they were not disclosed there was assurance that if the audacious warship held her course, she would be given a warm reception.

Nearby shipping in the vicinity was warned to make port or hold its anchorage. The weather was thick and it was not expected that the stranger would be sighted again until she was at close quarters with some vessel of the coast patrol fleet. It was at 7:40 that the war painted craft loomed out of the fog some fifty miles south of Nantucket island and about 25 miles east of Newport. She was directly in the lane for westbound shipping and not more than 200 miles by the usual course from New York.

The supposed raider showed two masts and a huge smokestack. She appeared to be about 10,000 tons and some shipping men expressed the opinion that she was an armored cruiser disguised as a merchantman. The vessel was soon lost again in the fog. Nantucket lightship, the outpost for westbound shipping is anchored 45 miles east, by south of Nantucket (Continued on Page Eight).



MRS DONALD S. STEWART.

New York's first "war bride" who was Miss Ida Kramer Ettlinger, is today the wife of Private Donald Story Stewart, of Company I, Seventy-first Regiment, N. Y. N. G. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were to have been married next November, but recent developments in the European situation, pointing to the calling out of the regiment, persuaded the couple to hasten their nuptials.

HOUSE PLANS TO MEET MONDAY

Will Hold Brief Session to Concur On Special War Tax.

Washington, April 7.—Plans of the House leaders today were for a brief session Monday to concur in the Senate amendment to the general deficiency bill providing a special war fund of \$100,000,000 for disposal by the President and then another adjournment until next Thursday to permit the committees to frame the war legislation.

Representative Rainey, of Illinois, ranking Democrat of the Ways and Means committee in the absence of Representative Kitchin, will act as majority leader and meanwhile confer with Secretary McAdoo on finance measures.

GREAT ACTIVITY AMONG ALL THE DEPARTMENTS

Rushing Preparations All Along Line For Greater War Preparedness.

PROPOSED BUDGET MEN AND MONEY.

Estimates For First Year—To Make Use of Interned German Ships.

Washington, April 7.—The second day of war with Germany found every government agency in action along predetermined lines, with congressional committees at work on the new army bill and finance measures. The navy and its newly organized power boat coast patrol squadron was being mobilized; naval militia and naval reserves were complying with orders to join the colors.

From many cities came word that the United States marshals had carried out orders of the department of justice for arrest of 60 Germans whom the government believes it dangerous to allow at large.

Officials had about determined to use the German merchant ships, nearly 100 of which have been seized, for government service, though no announcement was made whether they would be confiscated or paid for at the close of the war.

Government seizure of all radio stations and the closing of all except those needed for naval communication was authorized by President Wilson.

Both the War and Navy departments were arranging with contractors to furnish enormous quantities of supplies. Steel manufacturers agreed to furnish the navy their product at last year's prices, effecting an \$18,000,000 saving in the navy's 1917 steel bill.

The Treasury devised means of raising funds, subject to congressional authorization; and the Department of Agriculture set for a movement to increase and conserve the nation's supply of foodstuffs and to simplify distribution. Many other activities were started after the cabinet's council of war last night.

The House Military committee met today to hear Secretary Baker's explanation of the army general staff bill to draft and train 1,000,000 young men within a year and the accompanying \$3,000,000,000 budget, all of which had President Wilson's approval. The Senate Military committee also had the army bill under consideration today.

Without congressional action, the only thing the War Department can do to increase the nation's authorized armed forces is to order the regular army expanded to full war strength.

It seemed likely today that a large part of the war's cost, which for the first year alone may run far above \$3,500,000,000, also asked of Congress, even to \$5,000,000,000, will be raised by higher taxes on incomes, inheritances and excess profits.

Announcement from Secretary McAdoo on details of the \$474,000,000 bond issues, already authorized, but not issued, was expected at any time. Conferences on finance problems were begun today between Secretary McAdoo and members of the Senate Finance committee and the House Ways and Means committee.

Announcement will be made soon that free admission to American harbors has been granted war vessels of the Allies.

BOTH EXPECTED TO DECLARE WAR.

London, April 7.—The Central News says it is semi-officially informed that a declaration of war by Brazil against Germany may be expected by Monday.

CUBA TO JOIN IN.

New York, April 7.—The Cuban Congress is expected to declare that a state of war exists between Cuba and the imperial German government, according to a cable message from E. S. Azplazu, private secretary to President Menocal, to the Republic of Cuba News Bureau here.

BIG GUNS STILL ROARING ABOUT THE OLD TOWN

French Artillery Keeps Up Activity In St. Quentin Sector.

GRENADE FIGHTING ALSO REPORTED

German Trenches Successfully Raided—Berlin Claims Many Entente Airships Lost.

Paris, April 7.—Violent cannonading went on during last night on the French front, south of St. Quentin, in the region of Dallon and Grugies, the war office announced today. The artillery was very active, also north-east of Berry-Au-Bac.

German reconnoitering forces caught under the fire of the French guns were dispersed. South of Ville-Au-Bois, a German attack was repulsed.

Grenade fighting in the region east of Sapiègul, resulted advantageously to the French. In the region west of the Meuse German trenches were successfully raided by French troops.

"On Thursday night," says the official statement, "one of our airplane squadrons made seven sorties and dropped 440 kilograms of projectiles on enemy works at Dumvillers, Spincourt, and Mangiennes forest, and in Billy forest. During a bombardment of Rheims yesterday, several fires broke out. Ten civilians of whom three are women, were wounded. During the night German aviators threw several bombs in the region of Nancy, causing neither loss of life nor material damage."

Many Airships Shot Down. Berlin, April 7.—(Via London)—The entente allies, yesterday, lost 44 airplanes on the Western front, says the official statement, issued today by the German army headquarters staff. Thirty-three of the British or French machines were destroyed in aerial engagements. Five German airplanes, the statement adds, did not return.

BRAZILIANS CRY FOR WAR.

San Paulo, Brazil, April 7.—Great crowds paraded through the streets of the city today, singing the National hymn and waving flags. The paraders gathered in front of the newspaper offices, cheering for Brazil and the Allies. The crowds dispersed without disorder after listening to patriotic speeches.

PASSPORTS FOR OUR EMBASSY

Delivered by Austria—Turkey and Bulgaria to Break With United States.

London, April 7.—Passports have been placed at the disposal of the American embassy in Vienna, according to a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from The Hague, quoting telegrams received there from the Austrian capital. The dispatch says that Bulgaria and Turkey, have also decided to break off relations with the United States, and that Holland will probably look after Austrian interests in Washington, and American interests in Vienna.

News Not Received in Washington. Washington, April 7.—Word that the Austro-Hungarian foreign office had placed passports at the disposal of the American embassy at Vienna had not reached the Austrian embassy here early today, according to Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingshorst, one of the embassy attaches.

Minister Banaretoff, of Bulgaria, said today he had received no instructions from his government to break relations with the United States and demand his passports.

"I have no information that would lead me to believe that Bulgaria desires a break with the United States," he said. "I sincerely hope that European reports are untrue."

VOLUNTEERS FROM STATE OFFICES TO HOLD THEIR PLACE

So Declare Commissioners of Insurance and Agricultural Departments.

EDITOR EDMONDS ON THE SITUATION

Thinks War Should Have Begun on Sinking of Lusitania—Negroes Declaring Loyalty.

Raleigh, April 7.—The Insurance Commissioner and the Commissioner of Agriculture are telling those who work in these divisions that if they wish to volunteer and go to the front the positions will be saved for them if they are saved to return. But positions such as these will not be farmed out to other able-bodied men who ought to go. The Red Cross work goes on and the recruiting, not quite what is expected of the "worthy sons of noble sires," makes progress all the same.

American flags in business places, Teutonically owned, flags in the stores and houses of the colored people, resolutions, patriotic meetings tonight and ahead indicate interest in the trouble between United States and Germany.

Governor Bickett yesterday received the resolves from Canton Council, Jr., O. U. A. M., and that body of Western North Carolina Americans offers itself for all uses in this fight. The resolution recounts "the diabolical plots against our government by Germany" and stands without reserve against further temporization.

Last night the colored people, who feel that they have had a disproportionate amount of publicity by way of suggesting disloyalty, have been in session resolving themselves straight and pledging themselves to the government; and their church meeting was designed to offset some of the Yankee stories which they feel have done so much harm.

The women are interested. The Woman's Club Thursday evening put itself flat-footedly on record as supporting the President of the United States and his Secretary of the Navy. The retiring president, Mrs. Clarence Johnson, risked the opinion that the summer resorts will miss as their usual attractions some of the Red Cross workers who will give themselves this year to the country.

The truth is nobody has shown quite the interest that the women have and they have not interposed any objection to war on the basis of its declaration. Perhaps the best organization is the Red Cross, which is still under way locally, and promising.

Mrs. Clifton Stonestreet and her baby appeared in Governor Bickett's office today, attended by Attorney W. R. Johnson and left papers on which the application for pardon of Stonestreet is based.

Stonestreet was the luckiest of the men or women connected with G. J. Warren's murder in Winston-Salem. He was indicted as accessory after the fact, the part of that sordid crime which gave Ida Bell Warren and S. P. Christy death sentences, being the assistance he gave to the defendant Christy in burying Warren. Stonestreet is serving three years.

Stonestreet's wife is the daughter of Mrs. Warren and is herself just a child in stature and appearance. The young woman's mother is now serving a life sentence in the State's prison as is Christy. While the people generally feel that Stonestreet escaped with a minimum of punishment he has had a good deal of sympathy because of the manifest weak type of humanity to which he belongs.

Coon McGlamery, of Wilkes county, is given a commutation of \$100 fine and costs in lieu of a sentence of two years for immoral cohabitation.

Governor Bickett was not able to come to his office yesterday. He missed his first official duties. He is planning a trip of a week and expects to be back Saturday morning. He goes first to Winston-Salem, where he will spend Easter, and returns to Burlington to speak Tuesday night. Then he goes to Rock Hill, S. C., to make an address. His engagements will keep him away from Raleigh all of next week.

The Governor's office honored a requisition from Georgia today for J. E. Ledford, who is wanted in that State for crime committed in Cobb County.

(Continued on Page Eight).

INTERNED GERMAN GUNBOAT BLOWN UP BY ITS CREW

Officers of The Cormoran Lying at Guam Refuse to Surrender.

SEVEN OF THE CREW LOSE THEIR LIVES.

Had Been Continual Conflict Between Crew and American Naval Officers at Guam. Chased Into Port by Japanese Warship.

Washington, April 7.—The interned German gunboat Cormoran, at Guam, has been blown up. The Cormoran refused to surrender to the American forces which went to take possession of her, and was destroyed by her crew. Two German warrant officers and five enlisted men of the crew were killed in the explosion.

The Navy Department's announcement said: "The interned German cruiser Cormoran, at Guam, refused to surrender, blew herself up, killing two warrant officers and five enlisted men. Twenty officers, twelve warrant officers and 321 enlisted men were taken prisoners."

The message was received at the Navy Department at 9 a. m. today from Captain Roy Smith, governor of Guam, and commandant of the naval station there.

The destruction of the Cormoran took place at 8 o'clock last night, Washington time.

Internment of the vessel at Guam has been the cause of continual conflict and disagreeable incidents between the American naval officers in charge of the island and the German crew.

On several occasions former German Ambassador Bernstorff appealed to the State Department on behalf of the Cormoran's officers and crew to have the vessel transferred to San Francisco. Each time the Navy Department refused.

The Cormoran was chased into Guam by Japanese warships soon after the declaration of war between Japan and Germany. The ship had exhausted her fuel supply raiding commerce and was compelled to burn her wood work structure to make steam under which she reached that port.

SINKING OF THE STEAMER PARANA

Done at Midnight and Without Warning—Three Courses For Brazil.

Rio de Janeiro, April 7.—The captain of the torpedoed Brazilian steamer Parana cables that in addition to the killing of three members of his crew, several sailors were wounded by the explosion of the torpedoes. He says that the ship was attacked at midnight without warning and denounces the conduct of the Germans as barbarous.

A Noite, in a special edition, publishes an editorial in which it says only three solutions present themselves. First: A simple rupture of diplomatic relations; second, a rupture followed by reprisals, such as the requisition of German ships, and the adoption of sympathetic neutrality with the allies; third, a declaration of war.

"We consider the first," continues the paper, "an insufficient solution. The second will inevitably conduct to the third. We have always been pacifists, but today we do not see how it is possible to avoid the catastrophe longer unless we resign ourselves to be considered as a people who, being outraged, will not defend itself."

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STYLES IN WEATHER FOR ALL NEXT WEEK.

Washington, April 7.—Local showers and thunderstorms are forecast for the Southeastern States during the first part of the week beginning tomorrow. The temperature will be near normal. General fair weather will follow until Friday when showers are again probable.

SUBMARINE IN GULF OF MEXICO.

Tampa, Fla., April 7.—Captain Lindquist and crew of a fishing smack from Sarasota today reported that they saw a large submarine in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday. The craft rose within a mile of them and there were men on its deck, Captain Lindquist reports. He halled, but got no response and saw no marks of identification. The boat was headed south, three miles from shore, off Sarasota bay.