

North and South Carolina: Partly cloudy tonight; Friday fair, warmer interior.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ALLIED AND NEUTRAL SHIPPING REDUCED BY 11,827,572 GROSS TONS

the Meantime Their Ship-yards Have Turned Out 6,606,275 Tons

THE NET LOSS ONLY REACHES 2,632,297

Maximum Losses Reached in Second Quarter of 1917—British Admiralty Gives Out Official Figures

Washington, March 21.—Official figures of the British admiralty on submarine losses and world shipbuilding were made here today by the British embassy. They show that from both enemy action and marine risk on January 1, 1918, Allied and neutral shipping had lost since the war began 11,827,572 gross tons, while ship yards outside of the Central Powers were turning out 6,606,275 tons. These figures, long withheld, are now made public, an admiralty memorandum says, because today they will not stimulate the enemy and because they will impress upon the people the necessity of united action in making good losses by submarines.

In spite of the tremendous total of losses they do not approach the claim of the Germans, and with 2,589,000 tons of enemy ships added to output of the war period, the net loss to world shipping exclusive of that of Germany and her allies is only 2,632,297.

The maximum of losses was reached in the second quarter of 1917, after the unrestricted submarine warfare was launched at regular intervals. Six gross tons of ship went down. Since then the total has been reduced, until in the fourth quarter of 1917, it was only 1,272,843. In the meantime, the ship building output steadily curved upward. In the last quarter of 1917, it was 932,023 tons, and at that time the enormously increased facilities of the United States had not begun to get into action.

In announcing in the House of Commons yesterday that hereafter figures on losses and building would be made public at regular intervals, Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, indicated that it still would be unwise to publish the total for the war. However, these totals now are given to the public, simultaneously in this country and in Great Britain.

Following is the admiralty memorandum:

"Memorandum issued by the British admiralty showing in gross tons the losses to the world shipping by enemy action; the mercantile ship building output and the enemy vessels captured and brought into service."

"Hitherto the board of admiralty have been averse from any publication other than that contained in the weekly return of losses although it has frequently been pressed upon them that the whole tonnage facts should be made public. So long as such publication would encourage the enemy and would stimulate his energies in a dangerous direction, they have not been able to concur in the proposal.

"The figure today will not stimulate the enemy and the admiralty recognizes that the policy necessary as they believe it to have been from a naval point of view has had this serious defect that it fails sufficiently to impress upon the people of this country the vital necessity of individual and united effort on their part to make good the losses caused by enemy submarines.

"In the spring of 1917 the full measure of the submarine campaign was first disclosed. Since that date we have steadily increased our knowledge and our material resources for this novel warfare.

"Three statements are attached showing for the United Kingdom and for the world.

A FATAL COLLISION BETWEEN WARSHIP AND A DESTROYER

An American Boat and an English Vessel Ran Together Tuesday

FOUR KILLED AND A NUMBER INJURED

Collision Caused Depth Bomb to Be Discharged—Commander of the Destroyer Killed

Washington, March 21.—One American officer and three men were killed aboard an American destroyer March 19, when the vessel collided with a British warship, the Navy Department announced today.

A number of American sailors were injured.

The destroyer was the *Manley*, a depth charge on the Manley exploded when the vessels met. Both vessels were damaged. Lieutenant Commander Richard McCall Elliott, Jr., was killed. His wife lives in New York.

The explosion on board the destroyer *Manley* when the vessel collided with a British war ship March 19, killed the American commander and three enlisted men and wounded 11 others. Both ships were damaged.

In announcing the accident today the Navy Department gave no further details and withheld the location.

The enlisted men killed were: Cecil Hall, Charleston, W. Va. Boatwains Mate Lewis Cohen, New York city.

Water Tender Charles Magoni, West Springfield, Mass. The enlisted men seriously injured and with held the location.

Jured were: Richard S. Gallmann, seaman, Troth, S. C. Electrician Edward C. Landwehr, Elizabeth, N. J. Charles Pierce, engine man, Lake Crystal, Minn.

Frederick Richard Lawson, engine man, Orange, Mass. Clarence F. DeChene, fireman, Joplin, Mo. Carl Cecil Russell, Stockton, Cal. Albert Wallace Cecil, fireman, St. Louis, Mo.

The following were slightly injured: Ralph H. Christie, yeoman, Calais, Me. John D. Mercer, seaman, New Haven, Conn. Joseph F. Gumm, fireman, South Minneapolis, Minn.

JURY TO GET PITTS CASE BY FRIDAY

Morganton, N. C., March 21.—There was little prospect at noon today that the case of Garfield and Aaron Pitts, charged with the murder of Dr. E. A. Hennessee, would go to the jury before tomorrow. M. N. Harshaw, for the defense, occupied most of the morning session in the argument for the defendants. There were seven more attorneys to be heard.

Arrive in Manchuria.

Peking, March 19.—The Japanese ambassador and Chinese minister to Russia, accompanied by a number of Americans, Japanese and Chinese, have arrived in Manchuria from Petrograd. They were conducted to the Chinese frontier by Red Guards.

Two British and three French destroyers were engaged with a force of German destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk for ten minutes. Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats are believed to have been sunk. Survivors have been picked up from two enemy torpedo boats.

"No allied vessels were sunk. One British destroyer was damaged but reached harbor. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties."

ANOTHER AMERICAN RAID.

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, March 20.—American troops in the sector east of Lunville participated today in a raid on German trenches, penetrating the enemy lines for some distance. Hand to hand fighting ensued.

PART OF TRESTLE AT NICHOLS DESTROYED

(Special to The Dispatch.)

Mullins, S. C., March 21.—About 60 feet of trestle work at Lumber river bridge, a mile from Nichols, was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The passengers going to and from Wilmington are being transferred and it is likely that no trains can get by till some time tomorrow.

GERMANY INCREASES DEMANDS ON RUMANIA

Moscow, Tuesday, March 19.—Germany has increased her demands upon Rumania and now asks that Rumania surrender to the Central powers all of her own war munitions as well as those left in Rumania by allied troops.

HOUSE OVERRIDES GOVERNOR'S VETO

Richmond, Va., March 21.—The House of Delegates this afternoon by a vote of 61 to 20, passed a workmen's compensation act over the veto of Governor Davis. The Senate also passed the measure and it will become a law. Governor Davis' objection to the bill was that it carried an appropriation of three paid commissioners.

VILLA FOLLOWERS DYNAMITE TRAIN

El Paso, Texas, March 21.—Villa followers under Epifanio Holguin dynamited and robbed a Mexico North-western mixed passenger and freight train this morning at Santa Sofia, 110 miles southwest of Juarez, killing two passengers and wounding 10, according to messages received here today and confirmed by the Mexican general consulate.

SECRETARY BAKER CONCLUDES VISIT TO BATTLE ZONE

America's War Secretary Finishes His Inspection of Troops at Front

REVIEWS BRIGADE OF FIRST ARRIVALS

Men Who First Went Over Pass Before the Secretary Who Addressed Officers. An Inspiring Occasion

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, March 20.—(By The Associated Press.)—Secretary Baker today concluded his visit of inspection to the American military zones in France with a trip which took him from the Verdun sector to Great Headquarters and included a review of one brigade of the first division, which he addressed as representative of the whole army. The Secretary also visited the birth place of Jeanne d'Arc and made an incidental inspection of the troops here and there over the route which he traversed. Tonight the Secretary departed to fulfill other aspects of his visit to France.

The brigade of the first division was reviewed from a stage on a high plateau commanding a wide panorama of one of the most scintillatingly beautiful parts of France. It is reached by a steep winding road from the valley below. A 20-hour rain had made it inaccessible by motor so the Secretary and his party made the ascent on foot, slipping and sliding on the grassy mud.

Just as they arrived at the stand General Pershing and his personal staff came across the field and dismounted. The entire party then joined the waiting division and brigade generals and their staffs.

A cold March wind and occasional squalls of rain made the scene more impressive as the brigade in full marching equipment swept by at company front, each saluting like clock work, while bands played music which swelled and softened in the gusty wind. Secretary Baker lifted his hat to each regimental flag as it was lowered in salute and occasionally spoke to General Pershing, who stood beside him.

This brigade from the first division to put foot in France was composed of men seasoned in training over summer and winter skies and inured to mud and cold under all conditions of campaigning. They were the first in the trenches in the first to suffer casualties. Under the weight of full field equipment from trench tool to extra tools, steel helmeted, tanned and fit, the soldiers stepped swingingly through the sticky mud that was almost too much for the mules who drew the one-pounders and the wheeled kitchens.

It was the first time an entire brigade which had been in action had been reviewed and the Secretary complimented the general commanding and the colonels of the various units.

When the review was concluded the brigade and command officers assembled in a semi-circle and were presented in a body to the War Secretary by General Pershing in a brief address in which he complimented their record of fitness and efficiency. Secretary Baker, with bared head in the cold wind, told the officers they

MAJOR PETERSON IS ACQUITTED BY JURY

Verdict of Not Guilty of Embezzlement Returned in Short Time

Raleigh, N. C., March 21.—A verdict of not guilty was returned by the jury in the case of Major George L. Peterson who has been on trial here since Monday, charged with embezzling State funds during the time he served as paymaster general of the North Carolina Guard. The jury was out about an hour. Major Peterson is now on the quartermaster's staff at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.

Verdict a Surprise.

(Special to The Dispatch.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 21.—After a solitary ballot and 20 minutes deliberation, the jury in the Peterson case returned verdict of not guilty today, and the army officer wins complete vindication on the charge of embezzlement.

The verdict was a surprise to the town, but was none to the defense, which never, apparently, feared conviction. Major Peterson won it without going on the stand and rested his defense on the irregularities brought out by cross examination. Judge Stey, in charging the jury, made an eloquent presentation of the law, and in dismissing it urged it not to be moved by extraneous matters. "Be fair to the State and to the defendant," he said.

GENERAL WOOD IS BACK FROM FRANCE

An Atlantic Port, March 21.—Major General Leonard Wood and Major General J. Franklin Bell, commanders, respectively, of the 89th and 77th divisions of the National Army, arrived here today from France on a French steamship. General Wood went abroad last December to study war problems at first hand.

LENROOT CONTINUES TO HOLD THE LEAD

Milwaukee, Wis., March 1.—Returns in from the back woods district overnight and so far today did not make material change in the relative standing in the result of Tuesday's primary. With the vote complete in 22 counties and practically complete from others, Lenroot today had a lead of 2,326 over James Thompson, the LaFollette candidate.

DECISIVE MOMENT SAYS THE KAISER

London, March 21.—"We are at the decisive moment of the war, and one of the greatest moments in German history," said Emperor William in a telegram to the Rheinisch Provincial Council, according to a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam.

were typical American soldiers and said they were "the point of the wedge of the army which the whole American people is driving into the ranks of their adversary."

The officers then formed in line and each shook hands with the Secretary as his name was announced. The Secretary acknowledged each greeting and when some acquaintance approached he added a personal word or two.

General Pershing showed gratification.

(Continued on Page Six.)

GERMANS OPEN A TERRIFIC FIRE ON THE BRITISH LINE

LEXINGTON HOMICIDE REMAINS A MYSTERY

No New Developments in the Killing of Deaderick by Hedge

Lexington, N. C., March 21.—The mystery surrounding the cause for the killing of J. Franklin Deaderick, bank cashier of this city, by J. Graham Hedge, a prominent manufacturer of Lexington, which occurred late Tuesday afternoon at the home of the latter, remained unsolved this morning, but in a statement made in his cell this morning Hedge said that he had a good reason and would tell it at the preliminary hearing, which probably will be held next week. No inquest over the death of Deaderick will be held. Hedge this morning, in an interview, admitted that he phoned from his home Tuesday afternoon to Deaderick at the bank, telling Deaderick he desired to see him, but declared positively that he did not ask him to come to the Hedge home. He added that he had more than a month before forbidden Deaderick to ever again enter his home, and that he did not expect to come there. Hedge says he was at dinner when Deaderick arrived at the Hedge home and he supposed Mrs. Hedge admitted Deaderick. He denies that any harsh words passed before the shooting, saying they talked calmly.

RED CROSS MISSION REACHES MOSCOW

Washington, March 21.—The American Red Cross Mission to Roumania which fled from Jassy to Odesa to escape the advancing German armies, has arrived safely at Moscow, according to advices received here today at Red Cross headquarters. The party, headed by Henry W. Anderson, of Richmond, Va., consists of 20 members, mostly physicians and nurses.

JAPAN TO FURNISH SHIPS TO AMERICA

London, Wednesday, March 20.—Reuters Tokyo correspondent telegraphs under date of Monday that the Japanese commission having in hand the question of furnishing tonnage to the United States, met on Saturday last.

"America's proposed charter rate," the dispatch continues, "being one-half the local rate, it is understood that counter proposals for a charter rate to include insurance, evincing a spirit of compromise, were drawn up for transmission to America."

Evacuating Russian Towns.

Petrograd, Wednesday, March 20.—Kremenchug, Minaminka and Rodoman in Southern Russia are being evacuated by government forces. A Russian commission has left here for Pskov to investigate reports of attacks on German troops.

A Sustained Bombardment.

Paris, March 21.—There has been an intense and sustained bombardment of the sectors north and south-east of Rheims, as well as on the Champagne front, the War Office announced today.

FINANCE BILL PASSES.

Washington, March 21.—The Administration bill to establish a war finance corporation was passed by the House today, 369 to 2.

It May Be the Beginning of the Long Expected Offensive

TOWNS ON ENGLISH COAST HEAR ROAR

Heaviest Artillery Fire of the War Was Started by the Germans Early This Morning on Wide Front

London, March 21.—The Germans shortly before dawn this morning began a heavy bombardment over a wide section of the British front, it is announced officially.

The statement follows:

"A heavy bombardment was opened by the enemy shortly before dawn this morning against our whole front from the neighborhood of Venduill, south of St. Quentin, to the river Scarpe.

"A successful raid was carried out by us last night in the neighborhood of St. Quentin. Thirteen prisoners and three machine guns were brought back by our troops. Prisoners also were taken by us in patrol encounters southeast of Messines and in another successful raid carried out by us south of Houthulst forest.

The artillery action on the Western front could be distinctly heard at Dover and other towns on the east coast of England. The doors and windows of the houses at Dover, for instance, were continuously shaken by the heavy concussions.

The firing, which was the heaviest that has been heard in this district from such a distance, began at 3 o'clock this morning and lasted at brief intervals until 7 a. m.

At Ramsgate, besides the sound of cannonading, bright flashes were seen at sea, while the vibration of the explosions shook the windows and dislodged tiles from the roofs.

From Venduill north to the river Scarpe is a distance of nearly 50 miles and the beginning of the German artillery of a heavy bombardment along this wide front may mean that preparation for the much advertised German offensive in the West has begun.

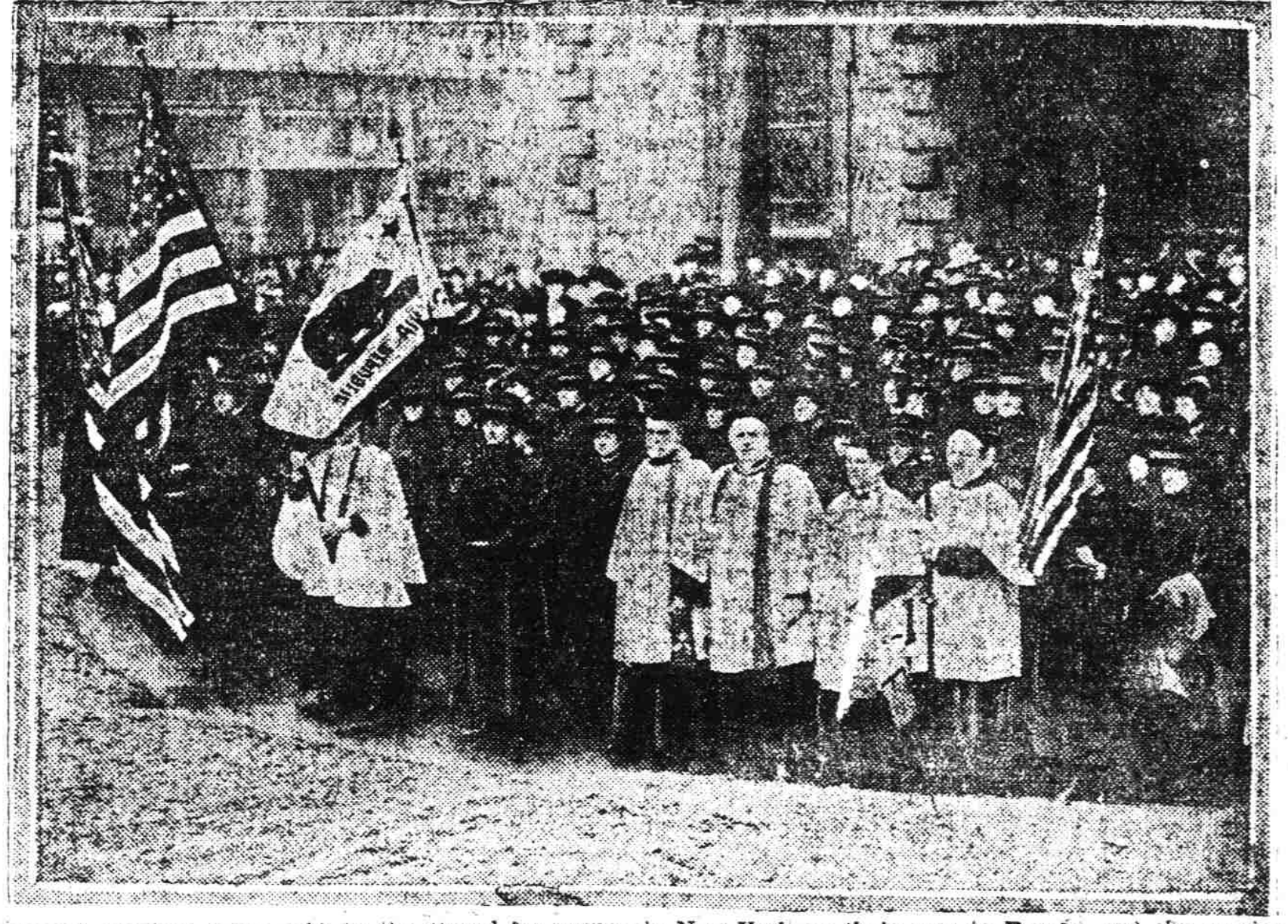
The preparatory work was about due to begin today if the advance announcement were to be taken at their face value. Judging from the news of a day or two ago, that a party of neutral correspondents had been invited by the German high council to start for the West front, on Wednesday "to witness the offensive."

It is, of course, impossible to say whether the present burst of artillery fire on this front means that it is along the line indicated, or somewhere within its limits that the heavy German blow, if one indeed is coming, is to be struck. There is the consideration that the bombardment in this particular area may be a feint, to cover a stroke in an altogether different sector. The most natural conclusion, however, is that the drive is to be made at some point in the area now under fire.

This area embraces most of the territory outside of Flanders, over which the British have been fighting, sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with the French, for the last two years. It takes in, for instance, the entire field of the battle of the Somme, fought in the fall of 1916 and a great part of the area evacuated by the Germans the following spring.

Within these limits also is the battlefield of Cambrai, where the British and the Germans successively won victories in last fall's fighting. Virtually all the territory fought over in the great battle of Arras, during the spring of 1917, also lies in the area under bombardment.

Army Nurses Bound for the Front



Special services were held in the chapel for women in New York on their way to France, and the service flags of two Western units were dedicated.

FOUR ENEMY SHIPS SUNK IN A BATTLE WITH ALLIED CRAFT

London, March 21.—Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats have been sunk by a force of five British and French destroyers, the Admiralty announces. One British destroyer was damaged.

The engagement occurred off Dunkirk this morning. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties.

The announcement follows:

"Vice Admiral Douer reports that an action occurred off Dunkirk between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning. Two British and three French destroyers were engaged with a force of German destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk for ten minutes. Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats are believed to have been sunk. Survivors have been picked up from two enemy torpedo boats.

"No allied vessels were sunk. One British destroyer was damaged but reached harbor. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties."