

Germans Sink American Ship **United States Navy Lieutenant: Gunners Missing** **Allies Ask Uncle Sam To Send American Troops To Europe**

U. S. MILITIA MAY BE SENT TO THE FRONT AT ONCE

In Six Weeks They Will Be Actually Fighting the Germans, If Recommendations of the Allies Are Approved.

PRESIDENT IS URGED TO ISSUE ORDERS

Allies Want the Militia Already Mobilized, To Be Dispatched Across the Waters in Groups of Several Hundred, So That Huge Masses of Men on Transports Will Be Avoided.

BY GOERGE MARTIN

Washington, April 30.—(United Press)—It will be only a few days before the United States militia now mobilized is on its way to Europe. It will be less than six weeks before we are actually fighting the Germans, if the Allies' urgent recommendations to the American government meet the approval of the administration.

It became known today that the Allies want American troops in batches of several hundred to go aboard each ship sailing for Europe. This will obviate the necessity for the concentration of enormous masses of men on transports, and crippling food and munitions ships to carry them.

These American troops, the Allies assured the government, won't be fused with French, English, Russians or other troops, but will fight as American units.

The Allies recommendations are intended to show the United States it is unnecessary to train troops here for months before shipment abroad.

Five weeks in training within sound of the guns is always necessary.

RED CROSS AUXILIARY AT NORTH POWDER

At North Powder yesterday a big patriotic demonstration was held at which Mrs. Zoe Spinning secured 60 members for the North Powder auxiliary. Auxiliaries to the La Grande chapter are also being formed at Elgin and Union. It is expected that the La Grande chapter and the auxiliaries in Union and Wallawa counties will number 1000 members in a few weeks.

Discuss Food Supply.

Portland, April 30.—(United Press)—A general shortage of wheat and grain, a great shortage of cattle, not enough hogs for home consumption, widespread hay and labor shortage was revealed at a conference of county agriculturalists here. The situation is regarded as serious. Farmers are not aroused to the seriousness of the situation. Labor shortage is acute. Arrangements have been made to close many high schools so boys can work. Oregon crops this year will be below normal. Agriculturalists are planning a campaign to suggest betterments.

ARMY SURGEONS TO GO TO FRONT

Washington, April 30.—(United Press)—A thousand surgeons, wearing American uniforms, dispatched as a military unit, will be the first United States expeditionary force sent to Europe, the War Department announced.

NEW FREEDOM IN RUSSIA IS ANNOUNCED

"PROLETARIAT OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE" IS SLOGAN—SOLDIERS ARE GRANTED MANY LIBERTIES.

BY WM. G. SHEPHERD

Petrograd, April 30.—(United Press)—From the Czar's winter palace, until recently the seat of the most autocratic government in the world, the following sign today proclaims the rising tide of world democracy:

"The proletariat of all countries unite."

Minister Gutchkoff issued the following orders at the suggestion of the soldiers: "All soldiers are hereafter Russian citizens. They are granted:

"Complete religious freedom.

"Free speech is guaranteed.

"Church attendance is not compulsory.

"Mail from the trenches is uncensored.

"All mail, including pamphlets shall be delivered to soldiers.

"Corporal punishment is abolished."

A great parade will celebrate the new freedom.

Frenhcmen Will Pay Homage To Lincoln

Washington, April 30.—(United Press)—Senator Lewis, of Illinois, called at the State Department to arrange for the French Commission to stop at Chicago, Evanston and Springfield on their western trip. The Commissioners are to visit Springfield to pay homage to Lincoln. The time of departure and route are not announced.

Seven Men Entombed In Mine Are Dead

Trinidad, Colo., April 30.—(United Press)—Investigation of the causes behind the entombing of seven miners who suffocated in the Mountain King gold mine was begun by the county authorities. All the bodies were recovered. The men were caught when derangement of the machinery prevented those above from supplying air.

T. J. Scroggin returned Sunday from Salem from attending the State Commission on Consolidation of State boards and institutions, of which he is a member.

STATE CAMP OF MODERN WOOD- MEN TOMORROW

ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW MADE FOR ENTERTAINING REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION OF FRATERNITY.

Due to extremely high water and overabundance of mud in the Eastern end of the valley, and numerous other unforeseen obstacles, those in charge of entertainment for the State Camp of Modern Woodmen which opens here tomorrow to continue until the following night have made many radical changes in the program announced in the Observer last Saturday. The trip to Hot Lake has been abandoned and the auto rides will be confined to a trip to the point above Fruitdale where splendid views of the valley are obtainable, and to brief rides about the paved area of the city.

The program arranged at the high school will take place Tuesday instead of Wednesday afternoon. The auto ride will come to a halt at 3:15 to 3:30 at the high school building and the visitors from every county in the state who comprise the delegations, will go immediately to the school building, and listen to and witness a short but snappy program. A half-dozen varieties of folk dancing by grade and high school students, a soprano solo by Miss Deborah Smith and a contralto solo by Gladys Winters will constitute the program at that hour.

It is especially emphasized that

GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE FOOD SUPPLY

BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS WOULD GIVE AUTHORITY TO SECY. OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, April 30.—(United Press)—Governmental war time regulation of the nation's food production and all dependent industries, which Secretary of Agriculture Houston urges, is demanded in the resolution Chairman Leve, of the House Agriculture Committee, introduced.

Seven Men Entombed In Mine Are Dead

Trinidad, Colo., April 30.—(United Press)—Investigation of the causes behind the entombing of seven miners who suffocated in the Mountain King gold mine was begun by the county authorities. All the bodies were recovered. The men were caught when derangement of the machinery prevented those above from supplying air.

MANY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT INITIATION

VISITORS COME FROM NEIGHBORING CITIES, ATTEND CHURCH AND LISTEN TO PATRIOTIC SPEECHES AT BANQUET.

Knights of Columbus from many outside cities attended the initiation of over 20 candidates yesterday, attended high mass, with the local knights, and were guests at a banquet last night at the Foley hotel.

The occasion took on the nature of a patriotic demonstration.

The Knights had invited Company M to go to the services at the church of Our Lady of the Valley. The soldiers turned out in force. The Knights assembled in the morning and formed a procession, headed by the American flag, escorted by the ranks' band and Company M, and followed by about 150 Knights in line. The parade marched to the church where Rev. Father Driscoll celebrated mass and Rt. Rev. Bishop Charles J. O'Reilly, of Baker City, delivered a stirring sermon, although somewhat handicapped by a severe cold. The Bishop referred to the present crisis and urged upon his hearers that patriotism was the noblest trait of humankind.

After the services the Knights and the troops marched through the streets of La Grande, and the Knights then resumed their initiatory rites. The large class was initiated, the visiting brothers assisting in the ceremonies.

After the initiation, the Knights gathered at the Foley Hotel for a very enjoyable banquet. An appetizing menu was served after which the evening was devoted to speech-making and music.

Fred. L. Meyers proved a very witty and entertaining toastmaster.

Rt. Rev. Charles J. O'Reilly, bishop of Baker City, again delivered his message to the Knights praising them for their patriotism and devotion to their country.

State Deputy W. A. Barrett, of Albany, told of the number of Knights from his vicinity who had gone to the front.

J. H. Pearce, district deputy said: "It is almost unnecessary to mention to this assembly that it is an utter impossibility for either a good Catholic or a true Knight of Columbus to be anything else but a true loyal American citizen, for immediately that he fails to be loyal to his country, he by virtue of his own disloyal actions (whatever they may be) disbars himself from the Order of Knights of Columbus; this every Knight of Columbus knows that has listened to the many promises made by the candidates today and the many lectures delivered by the various officers of the Order.

"In these you will recall that their duty to the State and Nation was made as binding on the candidate as their duty to their God and Church. This has been made more explicit by the National Council of our Order, in which they have stated that any member of the Order who is known to express himself against our government shall be immediately expelled from the Order.

"The proofs of our loyalty to our President, and Country, are too numerous to mention, as you have them on every hand; immediately after the severance of diplomatic relations with a foreign power, La Grande Council (in regular session) the following night, unanimously passed a resolution to be entered on their minutes and a copy wired to the President, pledging the loyalty of our Council and placing ourselves at his service for whatever purpose he might need us at this critical period of our country's welfare; this or similar action was taken by almost every Council of the Order in this, and every State in

(Continued on Page 8.)

OIL TANKER VACUUM IS TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING

MURDER PLOTS ARE SUSPECTED

Trenton, April 30.—(United Press)—A note book with the names of President Wilson, Taft, Roosevelt and others marked as "picked" for death was found in the pockets of Charles G. Mueller, an Indianapolis Architect. United States authorities suspect assassination plots.

NORTHCLIFFE CRITICISES THE BRITISH NAVY

EDITOR OF THE LONDON TIMES DECLARES BRITISH ADMIRALTY NEEDS RELIABILITY

London, April 30.—(United Press)—The public is clamoring for rehabilitation of the British admiralty. Lord Northcliffe, editor of the London Times who caused the reorganization of the war office in nineteen fifteen, is the leading movement for the reorganization of the Naval branch.

The Admiralty is criticised for failure to successfully combat the submarines, insufficient coast protection, permitting a number of destroyer raids and suppression of facts concerning the submarine activities and allied losses.

GERMANS ARE LOSING MANY IN STRUGGLE

By Wm. PHILIP SIMMS
With the British Afeld, April 30.—(United Press)—Scarpe is fast becoming the Valley of Death for the Prussians. With the northern end of the Wotan line melting away, the Court Queant defense threatened, Hindenburg is throwing division after division into the struggle. British guns are reaping a horrible harvest.

Celebrates 90th Birthday.

Mrs. Mary Townley of Union celebrated her 90th birthday Sunday, April 29th, at a party given at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Gale.

Mrs. Townley is in good health and says she prefers an auto drive around the country than anything else she knows of. She has 19 grand-children and 13 great-grand-children all living; the youngest being noe year old.

Steamer Bound From Liverpool to United States, Is Victim of Submarine Attack Saturday.

PART OF THE CREW SAVED PART MISSING

American Naval Lieutenant Naval Gunners, Captain and Some of the Crew Are Not Heard From—If They Are Lost, These Will Be First of America's Fighting Forces To Be Sacrificed in German-American War.

London, April 30.—(United Press)—The American oil tanker Vacuum, bound from Liverpool to the United States was torpedoed Saturday without warning.

An American naval lieutenant, nine American naval gunners, the captain, and some of the crew are reported missing.

Unless the American lieutenant and crew now reported missing, are later rescued they will be America's first fighting force lost in the war with Germany.

Three gunners and seven men were saved.

New York, April 30.—(United Press)—Capt. S. S. Harris, residing at Lampton, New York, was commanding the gunners according to information obtained here.

The Vacuum carried two guns and had a crew of thirty-four. It had been carrying oil to Europe since nineteen fourteen.

Company M. Will Hosts At Military Ball

VISITING SOLDIERS WILL BE ASSISTED BY ELKS' LODGE AND HONOR GUARD

In return for the hospitality shown to the boys of Company M by the people of La Grande the boys will be hosts at a Military Ball Thursday evening May 3 at Rex hall. The hall will be decorated by the company boys for the occasion with guns, bayonets and ordinance equipment.

A display of full marching equipments consisting of blanket roll, cartridges, belts and bandoliers, haversack, canteen, first aid packet and pouch will be on display for edification of the many friends the boys have made in La Grande.

It is the endeavor of the Elks to assist the company boys in making the Military ball the climax of social events of the winter. The Elks' committee consisting of H. F. French, Charles Baxter, Dusty Rhodes, Frank Bay and C. H. Seranton will have charge of the music and the hall. The committee of the company consists of Captain J. R. Neer, Lieutenant D. H. Allen, Lieutenant F. N. Banto and Sergeant R. C. Wygant.

The girls of the Honor Guard will handle the tickets for the event.