

AMERICANS REPORTED MISSING

FIFTY-SIX NOT ACCOUNTED FOR
AFTER BRITISH TRANSPORT
WAS TORPEDOED.

ONE WAS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Ship Was Struck Without Warning
—More Than 400 Americans On
Board—Discipline Was
Perfect.

LONDON, May 25.—(By United Press.)—The British armed merchant troop ship *Moldavia*, with American troops on board, has been torpedoed and sunk, according to an official bulletin issued by the British admiralty. The text of the statement follows:

"The armed mercantile cruiser *Moldavia* was torpedoed and sunk yesterday morning. There were no casualties among the crew, but of American troops aboard, 56 up to the present have not been accounted for. It is feared they were killed in a compartment by the explosion.

NORTHWESTERN MAN MISSING

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25.—(By United Press.)—Fifty-three of the American soldiers were members of Company B, Fifty-eighth Infantry fourth division, reported lost in the sinking of the *Moldavia*, the war department has announced. Included in the list of missing is George Buchanan, of Manette, Washington. A total of 482 Americans were aboard.

AN ENGLISH PORT, May 25.—(By United Press.)—"I never saw better discipline," declared Captain Johnson, of United States Infantry, describing the torpedoing of the transport *Moldavia* in the English Channel Thursday, with fifty-six American soldiers missing. "The torpedo struck the port side forward of the engines. All the troops were sleeping in uniforms. There was no confusion when it was found that the boat was torpedoed."

QUATO IS EXCEEDED.

Red Cross Drive Passed The Mark At Noon Today.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25.—America has given what the Red Cross asked. The drive swept past the hundred million mark at noon today.

TRAVELLED ON MOLDAVIA.

La Grande Resident Made Long Trip On Vessel On Maiden Voyage.

There is one resident of La Grande that knew the Peninsular and Oriental liner *Moldavia* quite well, it having been his home for three weeks in the fall of 1903. Hugh G. Ball, of the Observer staff, made the journey from Marseilles to Colombo on the big liner on her maiden voyage, being one of the 700 passengers she carried. He transhipped at the port of Ceylon to the old *Coromandel*, belonging to the same company, but now used by Hindus in the pilgrim trade, and continued on his long journey to Japan, where he resided for a number of years.

The Russo-Japanese war was then in full swing, and inasmuch as a number of British vessels had been sunk by the Russians because they carried contraband, every blot of smoke on the horizon of the Indian ocean was the signal for the question "I wonder if that's a Russian cruiser?" from one or other of the more timid passengers. On this, and many subsequent trips the *Moldavia* made her out port at Sydney, and it is only after a long period of usefulness that she has gone to the depths following an attack of a German U boat.

In her day, the *Moldavia* was regarded as one of the most comfortable vessels afloat, and she was admirably fitted to afford passengers every amusement on the long and sometimes trying trips throughout the tropical seas. She was one of the first vessels to be equipped with a awning-covered dancing saloon on the boat deck, and this in itself was the scene of many brilliant and long-remembered "Arabian nights" when the vessel was passing through the Red Sea.

PUBLIC LAND IS AVAILABLE

LARGE AMOUNT TO BE THROWN
OPEN FROM JUNE 22 TO
JULY 17.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(By United Press.)—A hundred and fifty-thousand acres of the best Oregon land will be opened to settlers, and applications are receivable June 22 to July 17, inclusive. The land is located in counties of northwest Oregon. It is declared it is the best government land remaining. Applications should be made to the Portland land office.

COMPROMISE SOUGHT.

Hope That Revenue Bill May Be Postponed At Present.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25.—(By United Press.)—Democratic and Republican leaders united at the instigation of the House Ways and Means committee, are seeking a compromise with Secretary McAdoo whereby to postpone the revenue bill. The Senators intimated that the president favors a compromise.

STATE GUARD MANEUVERS

ENTIRE BATTALION AND BAND
WILL PERFORM.

Event Is To Be Given Wide Publicity And Large Attendance Is To Be Expected.

Citizens of Union county will be given an opportunity to gaze the La Grande State Guard Battalion a thoroughgoing inspection next Thursday afternoon when the organization puts on, with the aid of the Home Guard band, a set of military maneuvers that will reflect the wide training of the guard. This will take place immediately after the memorial services in the Baptist church that afternoon, the first movement beginning at 3:30. The entire battalion and band will perform, the band participating in review and guard mount, and playing concerts during the other maneuvers. Two military features never seen in La Grande before will be battalion drill, in which both companies participate simultaneously, and the other is the posting and relieving of sentinels. Guard mount itself, though spectacular, is not entirely new here, having been seen ere this, but the posting of a guard has never been attempted.

Countywide advertising has been inaugurated. Countywide sale of seats has also been instituted, so that the entire county, which benefits by the organization, will be given opportunity to buy a 25 cent ticket and attending, in assisting in the full equipment of the guard. The band, too, needs financial help, and it will share equally with the guard in the funds.

The afternoon being a holiday, it is felt by both institutions that a big crowd should be present from all over the county and lend moral and financial help to an institution that frequently devotes three nights a week and always two nights to perfecting itself that the property and lives within the county may be protected.

SUBMARINE SUNK.

American Destroyer Brings Quick Retaliation To Enemy Craft.

LONDON, May 25.—(By United Press.)—The German submarine which sank the British steamer *Innisarra* was sunk by an American destroyer shortly afterwards, the admiralty has announced. Prisoners from the submarine have been landed.

NEGROES SHOW VALOR.

Colored Troops In Verdun Sector Are Praised.

WITH THE AMERICANS IN LORRAINE, May 25.—(By United Press.)—American negro troops, holding a portion of the Verdun sector with the French, are declared to be making an exceptionally fine showing in the trenches.

AMPLIFYING CHARGES.

Roosevelt Says Its Dangerous To Tell The Truth.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Col. Roosevelt, in amplifying charges against Postmaster-General Burleson, declared that the administration's activities rendered it dangerous for a newspaper to speak anti-administration truths.

PARK IS VERY ATTRACTIVE

CHANGE IN WATER COURSE
IS DEEMED A GREAT
BENEFIT

Public Is Asked to Cooperate In Observance of Established Rules

A drive through Riverside Park at this time shows many improvements under way, that will add much to the charm and beauty of the place.

The Nessley Ditch Co. made the park board a proposition of allowing the board to close the unsightly ditch near the entrance, if they would open a ditch across the back part of the park and carry the water into their ditch from that point. This was gladly accepted and the park board feel that the men who comprise the ditch company are to be commended for their public spiritedness.

A concrete flume has been put in twenty feet long covering the ditch just outside the park gate and this will be covered with gravel and graded up to the level of the park. The ditch will be filled up to ten feet beyond the wooden bridge just inside the gate at once but the rest of the ditch will have to await more funds.

A pretty little lake near the front of the park is to be one of the new features. The small trees have been taken out and it is hoped by another year to make this part of the park one of its prettiest spots. Much of the low ground will be graded this fall when the water is low and the dyke will be re-built where it is broken. A concrete bridge has been built across the new ditch and the space beyond this ditch will be used to park automobiles. The public is earnestly requested to co-operate with the board in a few very essential things. After entering the park, keep to the right and drive very slowly. Children are liable to be in the road around any curve or you may meet a car in a place to narrow to turn out. Do not park cars on the grass in any part of the park. Remember that this means every one. You would not put your car on your front lawn and this is the city's front lawn. Pick up every vestige of your lunch.

Mr. Thomas, the caretaker, has much to do and your can help him. Teach the children to be unselfish on the playground and to respect other's rights. On Sundays and on days when there is a crowd at the park the side gate will be open and all vehicles must use that way out.

HATS OFF TO HIM!

LONDON, May 25.—(By United Press.)—His right arm shattered by machine gun fire, Captain Walker Henderson Thomson, Australian infantry, organized a party of 16 and rushed it to the front where an advance was being held up.

Thus reinforced, the advance carried the positions, consisting of five concrete shelters with four machine guns, and put the whole garrison out of commission. Thomson has been awarded the Military Cross.

REUNION AT STEWARD HOME

Relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Steward Here Visiting.

There is a reunion of relatives of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Steward at their home in this city. George A. Steward, who is a brother of D. H., is here from Hastings, Nebraska, recuperating as well as making a visit. Mrs. Roy Brown, a sister of Mrs. Steward, arrived from Medford a few days ago and will remain for some time. Robert Marsh, Mrs. Steward's brother is over from Boise to join in the reunion. The Steward is a jolly place and every day is a day of bringing up old scenes and discussing old time friends.

AIRMAN FATALITY HURT.

Gen. Pershing Reports Accidental Fall Of Lieut. Barnaby.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMIES IN FRANCE, May 25.—(By United Press.)—Pershing announced that it has been confirmed that two American airmen fell from German planes on May 21st. There is nothing new in the American stories.

First Lieut. Walter Barnaby, of the Signal Corps, of Summer, Wash., was fatally wounded in an accidental fall. He was decorated with the Croix de Guerre, because of valor in the Seicheprey operations.

WEATHER REPORT.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(By United Press.)—Fair.

MORE DISORDER IN ASTORIA

DEMONSTRATORS ARE VIOLENT
IN THEIR ANTI-GOVERNMENT
CONDUCT.

COPENHAGEN, May 25.—(By United Press.)—Disorders continue in Prague. Demonstrators frequently cheer President Wilson and Premier Lloyd-George. Many have been arrested. Czechs, Poles and southern Slavs are reported to be preparing a violent anti-government demonstration when parliament re-opens.

MURDER SUSPECT CAUGHT.

Sheriff Advised Not To Bring Prisoner To Kelso To Avoid Chance Of Lynching.

SEATTLE, May 25.—(By United Press.)—William Horner, the suspected triple-Kelso murderer, was captured in Okanogan county last night by Sheriff Ward.

J. L. Spaulding, Sheriff Studebaker's business partner at Kelso, wired Studebaker not to bring Horner to Kelso on account of fear of lynching.

WILL INCREASE RATES.

Both Freight And Passenger Charges To Be Raised.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25.—(By United Press.)—It is learned that Secretary McAdoo has decided to increase the freight rates 15 to 28 per cent, and passenger fares one-fourth to three-fourths a cent a mile.

RAIN AT FRONT.

Dust In Battlefield Has Been Turned To Mud.

ON THE BRITISH FRONT, May 25.—(By United Press.)—A drenching rain and high wind has swamped the battle fields, turning the choking dust to mud.

The situation is unchanged, German concentrations are continuing from the sea to the Oise. Raids and intermittent shelling continue.

HAROLD GRADY COMMISSIONED

Former-La Grande Boy Is Made A First Lieutenant.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Grady have received word from their son Harold, who is in the aviation service at San Diego, that he has received the commission of first lieutenant and that he will soon leave that place for Texas. Mrs. Harold Grady, who is in San Francisco will go to San Diego to visit her husband a few days before his departure for the aviation field in Texas. The La Grande friends of the young man will be proud of his advancement.

HINDMAN FARM SOLD.

Galloway Bros., Of Elgin, Purchasers Of 1,200 Acre Tract.

(From Elgin Recorder.)

The most important real estate deal ever transacted in northern Union county was recorded this week when J. W. and C. A. Galloway, who conduct their business under the firm name of Galloway Bros., purchased the J. L. Hindman farm two miles southeast of Elgin. The consideration involved is \$60,000. The farm is located on Indian Creek and of the 1,200 acres, approximately 500 acres are under cultivation, including grain land and meadow. The balance is bunch grass pasture, making it an ideal all-purpose farm.

There is a considerable acreage sown to fall wheat. Livestock, including about 30 head of horses, 80 head of cattle, a few head of hogs, and all machinery and equipment go with the place.

The farm was originally known as the Chandler ranch, but was purchased about 18 years ago by J. L. Hindman from T. Towner, the purchase price at that time being under \$20,000. Mr. Hindman has made extensive improvements, including the placing of additional land in a state of cultivation, the erection of a modern bungalow, etc.

The purchasers are well known residents of Elgin, own an excellent farm in the Gordon creek district, and have been highly successful in farming and stock raising. Their recent purchase gives them one of the best general farms in Eastern Oregon. It produces a large amount of wheat, timothy and wild hay, and has sufficient pasture to feed a large number of stock during certain seasons. It is exceptionally well watered, Indian creek flowing through it from the east to the west side. Water for the house comes from Elgin's water system, the main pipe line running in close proximity to the residence.

C. A. Galloway, who has been residing in town for a number of years, will move to the farm and superintend the operations.

THE BIG SHOW HAS ARRIVED

PARADE AND PERFORMANCE
FULLY UP TO PROMISE OF
PROMOTERS.

Women Animal Trainers Constitute One Of The Most Unique Features Of Show.

Al G. Barnes big four ring wild animal circus is here.

The greatest aggregation of wild animal talent in the world will appear in two performances here today.

The circus came in 48 cars. There are 1,200 wild animals, 600 highly trained horses and 500 people.

The parade this morning was more than a mile long. The wild animals rode in open cages in full view of the crowds on the streets.

Their trainers, mostly women, some of them mere girls, rode in the cages with them.

These women animal trainers are the outstanding features of the great Barnes show. Most of them have been born and raised in the circus life. Their fathers and mothers before them were the breakers and trainers of wild animals.

Barnes himself has broken and trained many of the lions and tigers in his circus and today personally superintends the staging of his great animal acts.

The performance this afternoon contained 65 acts and was replete with thrills.

Miss Venus Fashion, a beautiful young woman, Barnes latest importation from India, entered a den with 30 lions and, after putting them through a series of remarkable acts, placed her head in one of their mouths.

Miss Mabel Stark, foremost of the country's living tiger trainers, wrestled unarmed with a full grown royal Bengal tiger.

Eight giant elephants and two of their babies did the bidding of Miss Grace Marvel in a battle scene in which they enacted the role of soldiers.

Stephen Batty, acknowledged to be the peer of the world's lion trainers, forces the shaggy kings of the jungle to ride on the backs of horses and elephants and to leap through hoops of fire.

Miss Vert Earle, prima donna of the white tops, former star of the Boston Opera Company, appears in a beautiful act of her own in which she sings some of the operatic selections which made her famous.

Margaret Ricardo works a group of vicious panthers. Martha Florine, whose leopard nearly killed her last year, is out of the hospital and performing with the same animals.

Clarence Crosby wrestles a giant grizzly and polar bears. Al Crooks has a series of funny stunts with 40 of his clowns made up as animals.

Altogether Al G. Barnes has brought to La Grande the best show of its kind ever seen in the state.

There are more than 60 lions and tigers in the circus and their trainers make the acts in which they appear more than worth while.

The doors to the big top will open at 7 o'clock tonight to permit the public of La Grande to visit the great menagerie of the Barnes show.

WOMAN KILLED.

Unknown Victim Of Fire In Badge Making Plant.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25.—An unidentified woman was killed when fire destroyed a badge manufacturing plant. The loss is seventy-five thousand. Celluloid badges caused a furious fire.

BRITISH POSITIONS SHELLED.

LONDON, May 25.—(By United Press.)—Field-Marshal Haig has reported the bombardment of British positions in the southern and northern portions of the Flanders front. The British successfully raided near Lens capturing prisoners.

A HAPPY GATHERING.

Wedding And Family Reunion Celebrated At Same Time.

The Sommer Hotel dining room was the scene of a very pretty dinner party on Thursday of this week, when Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hall, who were recently married in Baker, Mrs. Vettie Mann, of Portland, and Mrs. Maude McCullah of this city were guests. The table was beautifully decorated in carnations. Besides being a celebration in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Hall's wedding it was also a reunion of three sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Hall will visit for a short time in La Grande before returning to their home in Richland, Oregon.

TROOPS MOVE VERY RAPIDLY

ALLIES ARE LEANING ON AMERICA TO FILL GAPS CAUSED BY OFFENSIVE.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25.—More than 202,000 American soldiers went Franceward in May. The May figures will be considerably better in June, members of the Senate military committee, were told by the war council. The Allies are leaning almost entirely on America now to fill the gaps caused by the German offensive and furnish replacements for the coming smash. This is the interpretation given Lloyd George's speech by the military. The million mark is expected by July first and the second million this winter.

MANY WENT TO ITALY.

Former Residents Of United States Are In Arms.

ROME, May 25.—(By United Press.)—The newspaper *Roma* has declared that 20,000 Czech-Slav soldiers formerly living in the United States are now serving in the Italian army.

PREPARING FOR MEMORIAL DAY

G. A. R. AND W. R. C. HAVE COMPLETED A PROGRAM

Appropriate Ceremonies To Be Held Tomorrow and on Decoration Day

Memorial ceremonies are to be held both tomorrow and on the regular Decoration day next Thursday. A suitable program has been prepared for each one of these days. The exercises tomorrow will be held at Riverside Park, and will include a Memorial sermon at the pavilion. The program tomorrow is as follows:

March to bridge led by the Band. Song—Nearer My God To Thee. Ritualistic Service—by G. A. R. and W. R. C.

Launching Ship and Strewing of Flowers on Water. Music—Tossing Flowers Upon the Billows.

Salute—Members Home Guard. Taps.

Memorial Sermon at Park Pavilion—by Dr. Feese.

The program as arranged for next Thursday will be published next week.

BONE DRY PROPOSAL.

Washington Senator Wants Amendment To Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Senator Jones, of Washington, has introduced an amendment to the emergency agricultural bill, making the country bone dry during the war.

ORDER FURTHER EXPLAINED

Not Intended To Conscript Labor For The Military.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 25.—(United Press.)—Secretary Baker made a statement that Crowder's work or fight order was not intended to conscript labor nor to be held as a club over strikers. He said the department didn't intend to affect the labor situation in a military way.

RED CROSS INSTITUTE

Two Days' Session at Enterprise Next Week

The La Grande Chapter American Red Cross will hold an institute at Enterprise for the Wallowa County branch next Wednesday. This meeting will put out the same line of work that was demonstrated in Seattle last month. A complete program will be announced in this paper at an early date.

PROGRAM AT TABERNACLE

Special Gatering Under the Auspices of the M. I. A.

A special program is to be given under the auspices of the M. I. A. in the Tabernacle tomorrow evening. The program will begin at 7:45 o'clock and the public is cordially invited. The exercises will include: Vocal Duet—Retta and Zilpha Allen. Address—Mr. Bruce Dennis. Piano Solo—Miss Cecile Hindeman. Vocal Solo—Waldo Stoddard. Violin Solo—Miss Florence Lynch.

STUDENTS AWARDED DIPLOMAS

GRADUATING EXERCISES FOR
1918 COMMENCEMENT ARE
APPROPRIATE

THIRTY FOUR ARE MEMBERS OF CLASS

Loyalty and Patriotism Were Much In Evidence In The Ceremonies Of The Commencement Program.

With sixteen young men and eighteen young ladies ready to receive their graduation diplomas La Grande's annual commencement exercises were held last evening in the High school auditorium. Few commencement exercises in the past have witnessed larger classes than the class of 1918 and the very remarkable feature was the evenness of division in numbers between the boys and girls.

Loyalty and patriotism of the truest type pervaded the building and while it was strictly a school event, yet the love of country and the thought of the world war—our boys and our Allies—could be discerned on every hand.

Rev. W. B. Smith gave the invocation and Supt. Hampton introduced Hon. Walter M. Pierce, who delivered the address of the evening. Mr. Pierce gave a very able talk and impressed the necessity of doing something and doing it well. He urged the boys to enlist and help their country and to the girls he put forth the need of home services and the ability they would have to show during the absence of our boys at the front. The next number was a solo by Miss Cecile Hindeman, who needs no introduction to La Grande people. She sang "Mattinata," by Leoncavallo, and responded to an encore. Following came a double quartet composed of the Misses Schille, Lynch, Stoddard and Pearson, Messrs Prouty, Casey, Glaze and Bunting.

Miss Naomi Williamson gave a reading "The Courage of the Commonplace," which was ably rendered and it was a very appropriate lesson for the young people who were about to start out into the world.

Prof. G. A. McNeil, who has endeared himself to all of the High School students, presented the diplomas.

HORSE DROPS DEAD.

Robert Deal Sustained Loss As Circus Parade Passed.

A horse driven by Robert Deal dropped dead as the circus parade passed the intersection of Fourth and M. streets this forenoon. Mr. Deal had driven out on a side street to allow the parade to pass by and just as it passed the horse, without warning or demonstration, fell down and expired. It is presumed that the excitement of the occasion was too much to withstand.

BARNES RAPID RISE

Al G. Barnes, head of the circus which bears his name, started in the show business eighteen years ago with a pony and a pug dog and a greyhound.

Today he rolled into La Grande in a palatial private car at the head of a train of 48 cars loaded with 1200 wild animals, 600 horses and 500 people.

Barnes tramped the lumber camps of the great northwest in the early days with his tiny show, adding to it bit by bit until today it represents the greatest aggregation of wild animal talent known to the circus world.

The great showman personally attends to the breaking and training of many of the new lions and tigers bought by his circus.

Asked for the secret of his success Barnes replied "Hard work and giving the public its money's worth."