

MYSTERY REGARDING SAN DIEGO

CAPTAIN THINKS THAT THE VESSEL WAS TORPEDOED BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE.

LOCAL BOYS OF CREW KNOWN TO BE SAFE

Theory of Torpedo or Internal Explosion Is Not Borne Out By Surrounding Circumstances—Forty-Seven Lives Believed to Have Been Lost in the Disaster.

WASHINGTON, July 20.—(By United Press.)—The Naval Department has announced that the armored cruiser San Diego, has been sunk off New York.

It is recognized as possible that the warship may have been torpedoed. It is believed that the crew of 1100 officers and men have been saved.

The cruiser San Diego was of 13,000 tons displacement.

"TORPEDOED" SAYS CAPTAIN.

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 20.—(By United Press.)—The captain of the armored cruiser San Diego has landed, together with 115 survivors. He says he believed the warship was torpedoed by a German U-boat.

CAUSE IS MYSTERY.

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 20.—(By United Press.)—An announcement issued by the Navy department says: "The captain of the San Diego reports that he is inclined to believe that the ship was sunk by explosion of a torpedo."

There are no conclusive factors, however, for arriving at any definite decision as to the cause of the disaster. When an inquiry is held, the following circumstances will have to be considered:

First—No torpedo wake was seen. Second—No convincing evidence is obtainable that a periscope was observed is available.

Three—No submarine showed itself, despite the fact that three unarmed vessels were in the vicinity carrying out rescue work for two hours after the explosion, and would have been an easy prey for a submarine.

Four—The ship was struck on the port side abaft the beam, which discourages the mine theory.

Fifth—Fine weather prevailed, with a smooth sea.

Mines Are Found.

Late last night several American naval vessels which were cruising in the neighborhood of the spot when the San Diego disaster occurred, found a number of floating mines and destroyed five or six of them.

No Internal Explosion.

As disposing of the theory that there was a traitor aboard, the officers positively announce that there was no internal explosion on the warship. The vessel was traveling at a speed of 15 knots when the explosion occurred, and foundered within 15 minutes.

HEAVY LOSS UNCONFIRMED

NEW YORK, July 20.—(By United Press.)—Reports to the effect that 300 men perished when the San Diego foundered, which are in circulation here, have not been confirmed.

LOCATION OF TROOPS.

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 20.—(By United Press.)—Chief of Staff March today announced that the American divisions engaged on the larger front in the offensive, between Chateau Thierry and the plateau of Soissons are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Regulars, the 26th (New England) and the 28th (Pennsylvania) National Guard Divisions. It is said that the 42nd National Guard Division, which is a "Rainbow" division composed of

ALONZO E. TAYLOR



A new photograph of Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, a member of the war trade board and also of the House mission to Europe. He was in charge of the feeding of French and English in Germany before the United States entered the war. In private life he ranks as one of the leading food chemists and biologists in the world.

IMBLER MEETING IS A BIG SUCCESS

CHAUTAQUA TENT WAS FILLED TO ITS CAPACITY ON THE OPENING NIGHT.

Reports from Imbler are to the effect that the chautauqua meeting is a pronounced success. The tent at the meeting yesterday evening was filled to its capacity. The speaker was Col. Gearhart and he was appreciated by all. The Neapolitan Quartette furnish an admirable musical program.

Dr. William E. Adams was the speaker this afternoon and will also give the principal address this evening. And the quartette will also be on the program. The program for tomorrow will be somewhat in formal but Dr. Adams will be one of the speakers.

Those who attend tomorrow who do not bring their lunch baskets will be served with meals by the ladies of the Red Cross, and nominal charges will prevail.

Men from 27 states, is on the right flank of the allied army in the Champagne. This involves the field ambulance unit from La Grande, which was attached to this division.

Have Advanced Ten Miles.

Chief of Staff March said that the maximum penetration of the enemy's front attained by the Franco-American forces in their drive is 10 miles, while an average of seven miles along the whole front from Soissons plateau to Chateau-Thierry.

170,000 Americans in Drive.

Nearly 170,000 Americans are actually taking part in the fighting in the main drive with the French. This would indicate that there are over 6000 Americans to the mile of front, with comparatively few French in the salient where the main drive is taking place.

Chief of Staff March again announced that there are 1,200,000 Americans overseas.

CASUALTIES TOTAL 47.

NEW YORK, July 20.—(By United Press.)—The complete list of the casualties on the San Diego will probably total 47, including killed, missing and injured.

ALBERT BRINKER IS SAFE.

The only Union Co. boy who is known to have been on the ill-fated warship now proves to have escaped not only with his life, but without injury.

Mrs. G. M. McClellan, of Union, mother of Albert Brinker, this afternoon received a telegram from the Navy Department, announcing that her son was safe and well.

LOCAL BOYS SAFE.

Joe Corbett, of La Grande, is a member of the crew of the San Diego, which has been for some time past engaged in conveying transports across the Atlantic. Corbett was recently here on furlough and, according to his schedule, was to arrive in New York last night to rejoin his ship. He was, therefore, not on the vessel at the time of the disaster.

WEATHER FORECAST

PORTLAND, July 20.—Fair.

RECEPTION PLANS ARE MODIFIED

CELEBRATION AND FAREWELL TO BE IN TOWN INSTEAD OF AT THE PARK.

HON. J. L. RAND, OF BAKER, WILL GIVE AN ADDRESS

Main Part of the Program Will Be On Adams Avenue and Will Include An Automobile Parade and a Community Dance—Change in Arrangements Meets General Approval.

Marked changes in the plans for entertaining the selectives who leave for war next Tuesday morning have been necessitated, and the committee in charge has determined to hold the celebration Monday in town instead of at the park.

The chief reasons for these changes are, the pavilion at the park is wholly inadequate in size to accommodate those who would naturally like to attend and, in the second place, there are hundreds of people who would like, and are entitled to attend, but who can't get to the park.

These two primary reasons have brought about the change and mean that up to 10,000 people will be able to see and hear all that takes place.

Aid of city authorities has been invoked. Adams avenue will be roped off, from Chestnut to Elm, and Depot street, from Jefferson to Washington. This space will be freed of automobiles, and speakers and singers will not be interrupted.

The committee has announced numerous requests, which include:

That every automobile which comes down town take part in the parade which begins at 8:30 sharp, forming at the Y. M. C. A. with the head toward the west on Washington. The committee is frank to say that automobiles belong in the parade and not on the sidelines, looking on. This is one occasion when an automobile occupied with people on the sidelines looking on, will be deemed unpatriotic. People yesterday were, in some cases, awfully busy looking on, but didn't help to make the show, and it is proposed that this lethargy be eliminated this time.

Lieutenant Skiff, quartermaster of the Oregon Guard battalion here, will be marshal of the parade. In addition to the Oregon Guard, the band and the 91 Union county selectives, there will be 62 selectives from Wallowa county in the parade, and then, the automobile section, the foot sections walking far enough to give all auto parties the room they desire.

After the parade, which will move promptly at 8:30, will come the program at the intersection of Depot and Adams. Should it rain, the program will proceed any way—for a little rain won't hurt the home folks a bit. Rain or shine, the show will go on.

The following numbers will be on the program: Band music; address, R. J. Green; music by the Ladies Zouba band, in charge of Miss Gladys Black; vocal selection, Mrs. P. A. Foley; address, Hon. John Rand, Baker; celebration speech in honor of American victories on the Marne; vocal selection, Mrs. T. J. Scroggin; music by Home Guard band; reception and dance.

(Continued on Page 4.)

PORTLAND IS INTERESTED

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ASKS FOR CONFIRMATION OF FINE SITE FOR PLANT.

That the old adage "It pays to advertise" was conclusively proven this morning to the entire satisfaction of J. D. McKennon, when on opening his morning's mail he found a letter from the secretary of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, enclosing a clipping from the Oregonian of a special dispatch from La Grande, which stated that Mr. McKennon had offered a free building site on the right of way of the O.-W. & N. to any firm which would erect a dehydrating plant upon it.

The letter asked that Mr. McKennon confirm the report, also that he write the chamber of commerce a detailed report of supplies that could be made available for such a plant. The letter added that is the special function of the Chamber of Commerce of Portland to foster all such manufacturing enterprises, and upon receipt of the desired information, steps could be taken in regard to the matter.

BALL GAME AND RACES

BENEFIT SPORTING EVENT ARRANGED FOR FUTURE.

Ball Game Between La Grande and Enterprise Moose Teams and Cycle Racing.

Work is progressing rapidly on what promises to be one of the most entertaining afternoons in the way of sports that has occurred in Union county for some time, and it all started through a challenge of the Enterprise Moose Lodge baseball team to meet a team of the local Moose Lodge on the diamond in La Grande, and the local lodge donate the proceeds to any war work they might see fit. Of course the Moose Lodge of La Grande could not pass up an opportunity like this and accepted the challenge, also taking advantage of the fact that there are to be no Speed 'Em Up races this year, they are arranging an interesting race program to go with the ball game and make it worth the attendance of those from a distance.

The expenses for the occasion to be very light, as the county is putting the track in shape, the city donating the water and sprinkling. Wm. Miller tenders the use of the fair grounds. Al Daniels superintends the speed ring, Heck McGinnis is coaching the ball nine, the Auxiliary is aiding in every way and the Moose Lodge have gone in to make the event yield the biggest donation to the Union County Army and Navy Auxiliary that has been given to them to help in their great and useful work. As the lodge has the reputation of doing nothing by halves, they are very apt to obtain this result.

Besides the ball game between Enterprise and La Grande, there will be two automobile races, two (Continued on Page Two)

LA GRANDE PUTS UP A BIG SHOUT

WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER NEWS FROM FRANCE PARADE IS PUT ON THE STREETS

BAND AND GUARDMEN TURN OUT IN LINE

Whistles Blow And Bells Ring In Celebration Of The Great Victory At The Front—Joyful Day Climaxed With A Big Street Dance At Night.

Within an hour after the news from France reached The Observer and the glorious victory of the American soldiers was made public, a parade was on the streets. The Oregon Guard, headed by J. David Haines' band, made the very well-kept ring with shouts of "Victory."

At 4:30 o'clock the shop whistles and engines in the yard blew loud blasts, and the big whistle at the Geo. Palmer mill joined in.

Big Street Dance. At a little after nine o'clock, stationed on a truck, J. David Haines' band struck up, and nearly the entire populace joined in a street dance.

Railroad Yards Have Stunt. Nearly all the employees in the railroad yards took a hand in the demonstrations, during the pandemonium that prevailed on the streets. This excitement was in general charge of the veteran storekeeper, A. J. Martin. Among other diversions Kaiser Bill was hung in effigy to the flag pole and the figure was appropriately decorated in a color scheme of yellow.

Was Quickly Organized. Chief of Police Rayburn took charge of the preliminary arrangements for the demonstration, which was followed out practically in line with the notice given in the Observer yesterday evening.

Within a very few minutes the shops and mills were advised and the auto parade, forming near the Elks' Temple, was under way. There were upwards of a hundred machines in line, headed by the home guards and the band. This part of the arrangement was a surprise even to the participants themselves—everything being done so hurriedly, but at the same time in perfect order. As a matter of fact the parade was in many respects a duplicate of the recent Fourth of July pageant. For an impromptu affair it was a great success.

COMMUNITY CHORUS MEETING

Work On French National Anthem Will Be Undertaken. The Community Chorus will hold its regular practice next Monday night in the Presbyterian church at 7:30 o'clock.

Word from Prof. Edwards indicates his desire to devote some of the time to work on the French national anthem. He also hopes for a full attendance and all members be active in bringing more singers for enrollment.

L. D. S. LAWN SOCIAL.

The Sunday school of the L. D. S. church will give a lawn social on the grounds at the Tabernacle next Wednesday evening.

DR. CHARLES S. MACFARLAND



The Boy Scouts of America appointed Dr. Charles S. MacFarland as a special commissioner to present the greetings of 442,000 scouts and scout officials to General Pershing "over there" and to pledge the full resources they possess in backing him to the limit in order that the war may be won.

ALFALFA FIELD AND WEEVIL INSPECTED

GOVERNMENT EXPERTS WITH COUNTY AGENT, WILL MAKE EFFORT TO KILL PESTS.

A. Burr Black and D. G. Thompson, of the O. A. C. Biological Department, this afternoon, in company with County Agent P. A. Spillman, drove out into the country a short distance to inspect certain fields of alfalfa, which are infested with weevils.

The crop of alfalfa, in some sections of Union county, has become infested with weevils to such an extent that the crops are in great danger of complete failure, and it is thought by prompt attention, the crops, or part of them may be saved.

QUENTIN ROOSEVELT DEAD.

Definite Information Is Dropped By German Aviator.

PARIS, July 20.—(By United Press.)—The death of Quentin Roosevelt is unfortunately confirmed.

According to the Journal a German aviator yesterday evening crossed the allied lines at a low altitude and dropped Quentin Roosevelt's aviation cap, which contained a note confirming the death of the young American aviator.

Previous reports had held out hopes that Quentin might have reached the ground alive.

WEDDING.

A pretty but quiet wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Rumlhart on Alder St., July 17, when their daughter Clara was united in marriage to Mr. George Lansdon of La Grande, Ore. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Steward. Mr. and Mrs. Lansdon will be at home at their present residence to their many friends.

ANOTHER GRASS FIRE.

At 1:30 this afternoon, in response to an alarm of fire, the department made quick work of another grass fire which occurred on a vacant lot on Fir street, between T and U avenues. Chief Rayburn says that it was started, probably, by boys playing with matches.

THRESHING RECORDS REQUIRED

Accurate Reports Must Be Made to County Agents.

Under federal authority there must be reports made by threshing machine operators as to the amount of grain threshed and the acreage. Monthly reports are to be made on the threshing of wheat and a report at the end of the season on other grains. These reports are to be sent to County Agent Spillman, and they include not only those who are threshing for hire but those who do threshing on their own private account.

Mr. Spillman expects to receive soon a set of record books which will be supplied to the threshing machine men, and there will also be provided in the record book a place for the machine men to keep their accounts of work done, which is not required to be reported. Mr. Spillman wants these reports whether the record books are received in time or forward, as he needs the statistics to forward to the bureau of markets, as required by the federal rules.

AMERICAN ADVANCE CONTINUES

VIOLENT COUNTER ATTACKS ON SOISSONS-CHATEAU THIERRY FRONT ARE REPULSED.

LA GRANDE HOSPITAL UNIT IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED

There Are Six Thousand Americans to the Mile and Comparatively Few French in the Main Offensive—Severest Fighting Near Soissons—All Resistance Overcome.

LONDON, July 20.—(By United Press.)—The Franco-Americans, after repulsing the most violent counter attacks, which were delivered by the Germans along the whole of the Soissons-Chateau Thierry front in an effort to stem the tide of victory on which the allied armies are advancing, have again urged forward in an irresistible rush and are still progressing.

Prisoners Number 18,000.

The prisoners already counted number 18,000 it is authoritatively learned today.

German Throw Reserves In.

The counter attacks delivered by the Hunns were attended with great force, and indicated that large bodies of German reserves are now arriving.

Americans Advance 1000 Yards.

Between Souain and Aubervilliers, on a seven mile front east of Rheims, the Franco-American forces have advanced one thousand yards.

ANOTHER TOWN TAKEN.

PARIS, July 20.—(By United Press.)—The Franco-Americans continue their victorious advance on the greater part of the Aisne-Marne front.

Neully St. Front Captured.

The latest reports from the battle front indicate that the pressure is now being exerted on the German forces a few miles north of Chateau-Thierry, and the Franco-Americans have captured the important town of Neully St. Front. Germans retreating on To Marne.

The Franco-American forces are also crowding the Germans who succeeded in advancing south of the Marne in the early days of this week. They have hurled the Hunns back on a fifteen mile front south of the river, between Fossoy and Ouelly, gaining more ground from the Germans who yet remain on the wrong side of the river.

ALLIES DOMINATE SOISSONS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 20.—(By United Press.)—The War Department hourly expects to receive from General Pershing the news that the Franco-American forces have entered Soissons.

Official word was received yesterday that the city had been rendered untenable for the German forces, probably through allied artillery fire.

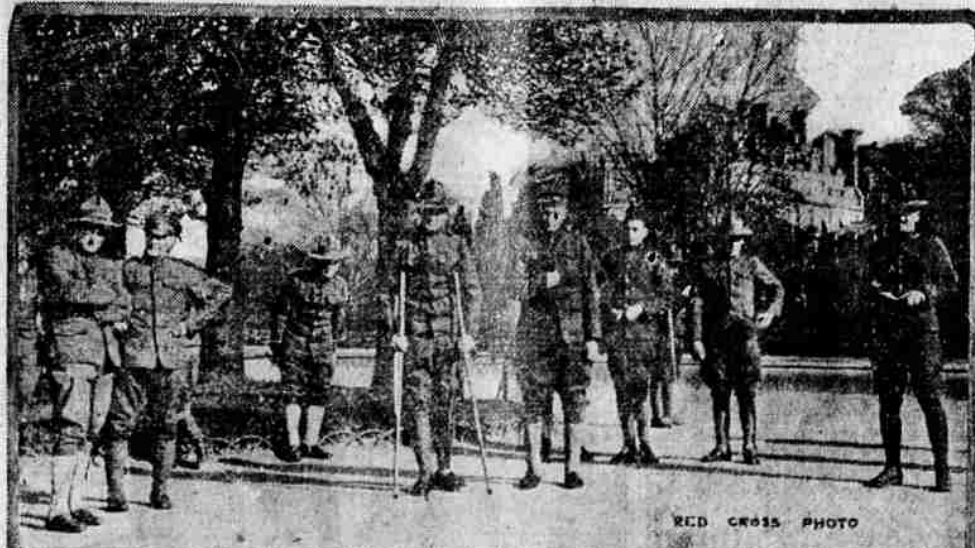
The capture of the city was announced from official diplomatic circles here yesterday, and it is expected that its fall will be confirmed by a communique from the French government.

GERMANS HAVE LONE CHANCE

LONDON, July 20.—(By United Press.)—The Germans lone chance of retrieving the initiative and renewing their offensive lies in striking in the immediate future at the allies. The blow must be struck with lightning-like rapidity and with a full force of men, say the military experts. Failure to do this will undoubtedly mean that von Hindenburg's 1918 offensive, which aimed at the capture of Paris and the Channel coast ports, has been completely shattered.

The chances of a German success may be gauged from the fact that along the entire front Generalissimo Foch is expected to give the signal for the loosening of the whole of the allied forces against the Hun.

AMERICAN WOUNDED AT PARIS RED CROSS HOSPITAL



American soldiers who have been wounded and have been cared for in the American Red Cross hospital in Paris, which was formerly known as Doctor Blake's hospital.