

GERMAN SPIES TIP OFF FLEET SAILING

Berlin Knew Four Days Before
U. S. Destroyers Started.

WASHINGTON UNEASY

Three Torpedoes Launched at American Vessels at Mouth of British Harbor—Mines Also Laid.

Washington, D. C.—An extraordinary demonstration of German spy efficiency, aimed at the American destroyers sent to the British isles, has just been furnished the Navy department by Vice Admiral Sims, in command of the flotilla on duty in European waters.

According to Vice Admiral Sims, the Germans knew that the President and his advisers were considering the dispatch of the destroyers at the very moment the proposal was being discussed by these high officials.

Berlin knew four days before the arrival of the ships the date when they would reach their destination.

More than that, Berlin had precise information as to the port selected as the destroyer base.

Promptly the German admiralty acted. Entrances to the harbors were promptly mined by German submarines.

Never before had this been done.

Fortunately the vigilance of the British mine-sweeping vessels prevented a catastrophe. Those vessels, in accordance with their instructions, swept the sea, picked up mines and thus made the way safe for the American ships.

But this is not the whole story. German submarines lay under the surface in wait for the American ships just in front of the harbor.

Upon the appearance of the destroyers three torpedoes were launched at them.

The lookouts saw them coming. The helms were turned over and the missiles shot by their targets.

The destroyers promptly swung around to give battle to the enemy, but the submarines did not show themselves.

The search revealing nothing, the destroyers went into the harbor to refit and resupply themselves.

Thus the first brush with the enemy left both scatheless.

Gratifying as is the failure of the Germans to sink or damage the American destroyers, their advance knowledge that the vessels were coming and the exact destination of the craft is a matter that has caused great alarm in official circles.

MANY DEAD IN BIG TORNADO

Kansas Twister Takes Toll of About 30 and Does Other Damage.

Wichita, Kan.—Thirty persons are known to have been killed, more than 50 have sustained injuries from which it is said several will die, and property worth thousands of dollars upon which no valuation has yet been set was destroyed late Saturday, when a tornado swept up through Sedgwick and Harvey counties in the south central part of the state.

Andale, a village of less than 300 inhabitants, bore the brunt of the twister's rage, 18 lives being the toll before the storm which, accompanied by a blinding rain, bore on to the northwest.

The country southeast of Newton furnished the remaining fatalities, three lives being lost from that city.

The country between Andale and Newton was pierced by a path from a quarter to a half mile wide, where the twister ground everything in its path either to death or to inanimate destruction.

Sedgwick, the largest town between Andale and Newton, escaped with small loss. So suddenly did the tornado rise and so well did it do its work that telephone and telegraph lines were broken before word could be sent ahead of the impending danger.

Censor Clause is In.

Washington, D. C.—Conferees on the Espionage bill have drawn a so-called modified newspaper censorship clause, which will be brought before congress with the influence of the administration for inclusion in the pending bill. The wording of the new section confines prohibited publication exclusively to military information and retains the provision that a jury shall decide whether published information is useful to the enemy.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Senator Chamberlain has been assured by Admiral Helm that he will at once submit to Secretary Daniels his board report on the submarine and aviation base at the mouth of the Columbia river for transmission to congress.

Dr. J. P. Truax, mayor of Grants Pass, captain of the Medical Corps of the new reserve army and one of the prominent physicians of Southern Oregon, suffered a broken collar bone and serious internal injuries when his auto turned turtle with him Friday evening.

Approximately 10,000 annual report blanks are being sent out by Corporation Commissioner Schulderman to the various corporations which transact business in this state. The reports, under the law, are to be filed with the Corporation commissioner on or before July 1.

Marion county's crops have materially increased, with the exception of hops and wheat, according to a survey by District Agricultural Agent Cooter, working in co-operation with the Oregon Agricultural college. Fall wheat has decreased about 13 per cent and hops are way below normal.

Nicholas Juareguy, of Tacoma, Wash., who was president of the student body at the University of Oregon, until his answer to the colors, received notice Friday to report to Presido immediately to go into the Officers' reserve training camp. Mr. Juareguy has been a member of the Coast artillery, Second company, and received his appointment from the National guard.

That no less than seven steel bridges bought by the Baker county court within the last year are now lying useless, excepting two at Robinette, which are being used as sheep corrals, is the claim of A. N. Ingle and other persons in their reply filed recently in their efforts to join the county from paying \$6000 worth of warrants issued in favor of the Coast Bridge company, of Portland.

There will be 114 seniors in the graduating class of the University of Oregon this year, according to an announcement made by Registrar A. R. Tiffany. Peculiarly enough, the class is evenly divided as to men and women, there being 57 of each, who will appear in the caps and gowns next week. This graduating class exceeds that of last year by 15 and is one of the largest classes in recent years.

In telegrams to President Wilson, members of congress and to the public service commissions of Washington, Idaho, California and Nevada, the Public Service commission of Oregon is urging the appointment of Clyde B. Aitchison as a member of the Interstate Commerce commission. Mr. Aitchison formerly was chairman of the Oregon commission and now is solicitor for the National association of Railway commissioners.

With a population of 8000, Hood River has subscribed for the liberty loan \$30,000. Local bankers state that applications from individual investors, following announcements of fruit men of a possible condition that will render apple distribution the coming fall negligible, have fallen off appreciably. Hood River Valley citizens refuse to go further with their subscriptions until they have the assurance that their product will not be sacrificed. Such action is not for lack of patriotism, but simply because they will not be able to buy the bonds.

The city of Eugene is meca for the Oddfellows of Oregon. Every train brought large delegations to the grand lodge meeting and the Rebekah assembly, which convened Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock. The streets were crowded with visitors and gay with decorations.

James Sturgis has purchased the remaining 825 acres of the Barnhart ranch, west of Pendleton, from the J. E. Smith Livestock company, at a reported price of \$30,000. The part of the ranch on the south side of the river was sold some months ago to the Umattilla Sheep company.

Little Letha Harness, of Roseburg, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Harness, died late Sunday as a result of injuries sustained by being run down by an automobile earlier in the day. Eyewitnesses to the accident said the child was playing on what is known as the Brown bridge and did not notice the approaching car, which was driven by Charles Fields, an employe of the Roseburg postoffice.

The American Poland China Record association, the Chester White Swine Record association, the American Duroc-Jersey Swine Breeders' association, the American Yorkshire club and the National Duroc-Jersey Record association have offered prizes to the swine department of the Oregon State Fair this year aggregating \$1140, which are to be special prizes offered in addition to the prizes hung up by the State Fair board itself.

HOW BIG ARMIES WERE CREATED BY GREAT BRITAIN

Least Difficulty Found Was Obtaining Men in Early Days of the War.

PROBLEMS QUICKLY SOLVED

System is Finally Established After Early Blundering and the Present-Day Efficiency of the Troops in France is Testimony to the Thoroughness of Their Training.

New York.—We received from the office of the general staff an interesting article on the "Organization and Training of the New Armies of Great Britain" which tells us that the British army that went out to Mons in the early days of August, 1914, was probably the best trained army that has ever left England, the Army and Navy Journal states. Nearly all the officers were men who took a keen interest in their profession and who availed themselves of every opportunity to increase their military knowledge and experience. The training of part of the expeditionary force at Aldershot, under the commanders who themselves led it into action, was training such as never had been seen in England. Owing to the stress of circumstances the training of the new armies during the first period was less complete than that of the armies organized later in the second period, but both armies were characterized by the spirit which puts life into the instruction in military duties.

The practical training in small wars had taught the British soldier the inestimable value of never knowing when he is beaten, the Russians saying that the English never win more than one victory in a war—but that is the last. This and a strong regimental feeling which has always been characteristic of the British army have been preserved in the armies now in the field.

Men at First Responded Quickly.

This regimental feeling tends to make officers and men one happy family, proud of themselves, jointly anxious to make their regiment a glory to the British army. It cultivates a spirit of self-reliance, loyalty and kindness, all based upon the strong sense of discipline and community of interest. It is a broadminded and tolerant method which insists on smartness and on duty and discipline and high courage and courtesy, but not on hate.

The men who came into the army as recruits were the kind who were ready to respond to the British methods of training a volunteer army. The least difficulty found was in obtaining the men in the early days of the war. Recruits came faster than they could be taken care of and supplied with proper equipment. Some 800,000 troops were housed in hired buildings and other temporary quarters, but within a year huts to hold three-quarters of a million men, with water and light laid on, had been built, besides various enormous depots for stores, remounts, etc. These huts seemed to spring up in every part of the country; one great bare moorland in the midlands, uninhabited since the dawn of history, had been covered with new roads, railways, pumping establishments, power stations and huts for some 40,000 individuals.

Soldiers' Quarters and Food.

Within a year the problem of quartering the troops in the chief training centers had been solved. The previous uncomfortable accommodations were the cause of bad discipline and slovenly training. Fortunately a satisfactory system for feeding the troops on a war basis had been elaborated two years before the war. A description of this method is given. At the beginning certain articles of food, especially meat, were so excessive that great waste re-

NO FAVORITISM IN DRAFT

Selective Service Act is Specific and Allows No Latitude to Registration Officials.

Washington.—A statement has been issued from the office of the provost marshal general of the United States army as follows:

The attention of the war department has been called to the fact that fear exists in some parts of the country that some members of the county and city registration boards may be influenced by personal considerations to discriminate between young men who are liable for service, and to make friendship or some other consideration a moving factor in the selection of soldiers for the new army.

There is no ground for such a fear. The law is specific and allows no latitude to the officials either in the matter of registration or in the later matter of exemption from service. In fact, the law is self-executing. Every man within the age limits fixed by the selective-service act must register, and the penalty of the law for evasion

suited, also owing much to the ignorance of the soldiers detailed for cooking duties, who served the excellent food provided in a slovenly unappetizing way, and improvement followed the establishment of schools in instruction in cookery and the admonition to commanding officers to lay stress on the variety in the cooking of the food, on cleanliness and on economy.

Clothing the recruits was another difficulty experienced at the beginning. Important parts of the equipment such as army boots were for a long time sadly deficient. The enlargement of old plants, the erection of new plants and instruction in the methods of manufacture was a slow and laborious process. When the war started, England seemed to have been as badly off in matters of supplies as we. They had less than 800,000 rifles, only half of them the latest pattern. The weekly output of rifles in the United Kingdom was under 2,000, which could be increased somewhat by night shifts, but which at the best was infinitesimal compared with the needs of the new army. Unfortunately the rifle, though needed in larger quantities than any other weapon for an army, requires longer time than any other before its manufacture with new plants can be started, owing largely to the number of gauges of extreme accuracy required in the process; consequently the recruits had to wait long.

By January, 1915, the first new army had about 400 service rifles per battalion, and the second about 100, and it was not until March, 1915, that these armies were beginning to be fully armed. To provide even a limited amount of drill and musketry practice it was necessary to hand around the few service rifles in each battalion as the three Fates handed around their solitary eye in the story of Perseus. Many rifles were too worn to shoot with sufficient accuracy for musketry practice and there was no opportunity to cultivate in the soldier a personal pride in his own rifle and the knowledge of its idiosyncrasies. This scarcity of rifles in the early days prolonged the training.

In the artillery it was quite as bad. In October, 1914, the artillery of one division of the first new army had only six 18-pounders altogether instead of its full complement of 54; another had only a few of the obsolete 15-pounders; in March, 1915, some divisions had only two guns per battery; even in May, when the full complement of guns had arrived for the first new army divisions, the equipment of dial sights, etc., for indirect laying was still deficient.

For months the gunners in some divisions had to learn what they could of the mechanism of a rifle without even seeing one. Some enthusiastic officers provided dummy wooden guns at their own expense and obsolete guns were utilized for the same purpose. When some such guns as these were available there were no artillery instruments such as dial sights, range finders, directors and so on, without which a modern battery is almost helpless, except those that could be improvised by an ingenious limber gunner. Similarly horses, harness and the proper wagons were hardly ever complete for any battery of the first three armies till on the very eve of their departure over sea. Noncommissioned officers fit to train recruits were sadly lacking. Those having experience could not be spared from their regiments at the front. The most that could be done was to have one experienced man in each unit and this only by employing 200 officers of the Indian army home on leave and retired officers ("dug out" as they were popularly called). Some of these did important service and others were of little value, not being up-to-date and lacking the capacity of making themselves so. The infantry drill had been altered and the double company substituted for the old

single company; in artillery the changes had been even more notable by the introduction and almost exclusive use of indirect laying, which required in artillery officers and noncommissioned officers facilities of rapid observation and calculation; again the co-operation of artillery and airplanes was a closed book to all the old school gunners; the use of telephones and signals had been developed in a manner unknown to quite recent generations of officers.

To secure officers required the courses at Woolwich and Sandhurst were reduced and the age limit lowered. A certain number of commissions were granted directly to university graduates and ex-warrant and noncommissioned officers were given commissions. There were at the beginning of the war 22 senior officers' training corps. Some of the best trained men from the senior corps were given regular commissions at once and large numbers received "temporary commissions" for service with the new battalions. A great many senior boys from the cadet corps of the schools were also given temporary commissions. It is an indication of the value of these O. T. C.'s at a critical junction of the war, that within the first year of the war the Oxford university O. T. C. provided over 2,300, three of the smaller northern universities' O. T. C.'s over 1,000 and the Inns of Court O. T. C.'s over 2,500. It was found necessary to give temporary commissions even to university graduates and the senior boys in public schools. Practically all pupils of the public schools applied for commissions as soon as they reached the age limit. Excellent material for junior officers was found among the young men who had gone to the colonies or foreign countries to take up a life of adventure. No young men made better officers than these, for all had taken some risks; they had been on their own responsibility, and generally had men under them and experienced dangers by flood and field. The supply of officers for a technical corps proved surprisingly adequate, the war office selecting according to the recommendations of the heads of the corresponding civil professions. In addition to these the war office has obtained a large staff of specialists for work with the troops, e. g., bacteriologists, ophthalmologists, aurists, radiologists, dermatologists, experts in tropical diseases, etc.

For all practical purposes, most of the infantry subalterns of the new armies had to train themselves during the first five months of the war as best they could in the intervals of training their men. If the officers were untrained, the noncommissioned officers of the new armies were in the main even less trained. This presented a marked contrast to the really good sergeant of the old school with his mingled humor and severity, putting a squad of recruits through their paces, the type of Kipling's Private Mulvaney. There was some compensation for this, however; the fact that the necessity of doing the noncommissioned officers' job as well as their own gave the officer's greater proficiency and better understanding of their men.

An experienced British general writing on the training of some of these new divisions, said that a mass of civilians had been transformed in less than eight months into an army which had more practical training for war than it had ever been possible to give to troops in England before. There was, he added, a feeling of confidence in all ranks, due partly to the organizing power of a short-handed staff, but chiefly to the keenness of all ranks to make themselves fit for the front. The experiences here recorded are highly suggestive of our own experiences and they indicate the methods we shall have to follow in creating armies to meet our regular requirements.

the duties of the office are performed in strict accordance with the requirements of the law.

So far as the other reasons for exemptions under the law are concerned, exemptions for men engaged in pursuits in which their work is more valuable at home than in the service, the authority will lie with a board of higher jurisdiction. Those who fear that discriminations will be made on grounds of personal friendship or on other grounds may be assured that every precaution will be taken to make it certain that the registration will be conducted with exact justice and that the democracy of the law will dwell in its spirit as in its letter.

Import of Gems Cut Third.

New York.—Diamonds and other precious gems will not be so plentiful in the future. The imports for March were only \$1,684,133 against \$3,516,679 for February.

A Kentucky man has written to a Connecticut mayor please to find him a step-mother, "not too fat," for his four daughters.