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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

AMERICANS NOT LOST ON THE SUSSEX

All Citizens of United States Who Were Aboard the Torpedoed Steamer Have Now Been Accounted for

London, Mar. 27.—Several Americans were seriously injured when a terrific explosion damaged the British steamer Sussex in the English channel, but no United States citizens were lost, the American embassy announced today.

Miss Calliope Fennell, of New York, reported killed, has been located in Paris. The announcement confirmed the report that Elizabeth Baldwin and her parents, of Philadelphia, had been saved. They are at Boulogne.

Twelve bodies of passengers and sailors have been recovered. Seventy persons are still missing. Both the United States embassy and the British admiralty are continuing their investigations. No statement has been made as yet by the British naval authorities, although the French admiralty is positive that the Sussex was torpedoed. A majority of the survivors are confident that the explosion was caused by a submarine attack.

London newspapers are in accord that the Sussex was torpedoed, and are speculating as to the action of the United States.

The Chronicle said:

"Obviously, no more direct challenge ever has been handed another nation than Germany has launched toward the United States. Whether the United States picks it up or lets it lie, all belligerents will know with a clearness hitherto lacking just where the greatest neutral stands."

Duplication of survivors' lists made it probable today that the toll of life might be more than 100. George Crocker is the only American survivor at Dover reported in a serious condition. The others suffered from shock.

Berlin, Mar. 27.—Reports that the Sussex had been damaged by a German submarine were generally disbelieved here today. The admiralty, however, has not yet denied the charge. Teuton submarines operating off the French coast probably will not return for days. In the meantime, officials hoped that neutrals would not base their opinions of the disaster on allied versions of it.

Washington, Mar. 27.—Diplomatic relations with Germany will probably be broken off if the government finds that a German submarine torpedoed the Sussex, high administration officials said today.

"The president is awaiting facts," announced the white house. President Wilson has asked the state department to rush the work of gathering official reports. He conferred with Secretary Lansing by telephone.

A fragment of bronze, such as is used in German torpedoes, was found in the wreckage of the Sussex, according to information received here. It is also known that a German submarine was operating near where the Sussex explosion occurred.

The state department's view is that if it is established a submarine was responsible, there will be no need to inquire as to its nationality, as neither Turkish nor Austrian undersea boats operate in the English channel.

The white house holds the same view. There probably will be no inquiry made to Germany, because, in view of the status of previous negotiations, America's position is be-

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TRIO OF ALLIES' VESSELS SUNK IN PAST 24 HOURS

London, Mar. 27.—Three more vessels have been sunk in the past 24 hours, it was learned today. They were the French steamer Hebe, the British ship Cerne, and the British fish carrier Khartoum. Nine of the latter's crew were reported missing.

Berlin, Mar. 27.—A French transport, with troops from Saloniki, has been mined and sunk with large casualties, Athens dispatches declared today.

Only 73 were saved.

WILLAMETTE AND COLUMBIA RIVERS RISE

Portland, Mar. 27.—Steady rains for several days and backwater from the Columbia have forced the Willamette river up until it reached a stage of 18.6 feet early today. This is 3 1/2 feet above flood stage and little more than a foot lower than the mark reached during the February floods.

ORDER ISSUED BY MINISTER OBREGON

Douglas, Ariz., Mar. 27.—Americans arriving today from Hermosillo, capital of Sonora, declared that Minister of War Obregon had issued an order discharging all employees of the de facto government who are paid in gold.

This action is regarded here as an indication that the Carranzistas are preparing for any possible exigency which might result from the presence of the American forces in Chihuahua.

All Americans in the de facto army and department of munitions supply are paid in gold. They have been forced out, according to Americans who came up from Hermosillo today. It became known today also that Americans were in grave danger from an anti-American outbreak the latter part of last week. The ill-feeling was incited by the centrifugal element, it was reported.

General Calles, military governor of Sonora, today accompanied Sheriff Wheeler to Cabullona, Mexico, today on a tour of inspection. It had been persistently reported that large de facto forces were concentrating at Cabullona, menacing Douglas.

D. A. Richardson, by telegraph, requested federal investigation of the charges by Mayor Ellis that he sent alarmist reports of border conditions to senators at Washington.

GERMAN TORPEDO BOAT BELIEVED LOST IN BATTLE

Berlin, Mar. 27.—Not having returned from the scene of a fight with British warships last Saturday, a German torpedo boat is believed to be lost, the admiralty admitted today.

The action was fought off the Friesian coast. Two German armed patrol boats were sunk. German aeroplanes scored several hits, severely damaging one British destroyer.

U. S. AIR FLEET IN POOR CONDITION

Washington, Mar. 27.—Destruction of two out of eight army aeroplanes used in Mexico was announced today by the war department. The cause was not explained. Other machines, it was said, "need new parts." Only two are "in actual continuous service."

Secretary of War Baker is negotiating for the purchase of additional aircraft. The intermittent wireless service, due to poor statics, has emphasized the need for aeroplanes.

\$40,000 FOR VILLA, DEAD OR ALIVE

Carranza Offers Fortune for Body of the Bandit Chief, and Hunt for the Outlaw Takes New Spirit

U. S. Army Headquarters, near Dublin, Mexico, Mar. 27.—(By Aeroplane to Columbus, N. M.)—Venustiano Carranza has offered \$40,000 for Francisco Villa's capture, dead or alive, it was reported today.

"We will outmarch Villa in the next fortnight," said Brigadier-General Pershing, in expressing pride in the spirit manifested by his men. "The boys are stepping with such 'heads-up' as was never seen in ordinary maneuvers. If Villa holds his men together, the expedition has a good chance of accomplishing its object."

Pershing is confident that Villa can not greatly increase his force, as massacring of Mexicans at Corralitos ranch turned his own countrymen against him. The alcalde of El Valle from his pulpit explained the real purpose of the American expedition. It was reported that one Mexican forced into the Villista army there was a woman.

Pershing indicated that Villa was fleeing due south from El Valle. His whereabouts are apparently unknown at headquarters. The Americans have never been in contact with Villistas. A sniper once fired at an American aeroplane, but missed.

VANCOUVER SOLDIERS ARRIVE AT BORDER

El Centro, Cal., Mar. 27.—The Third battalion of the Twenty-first infantry pitched camp here today, following its arrival from Vancouver late last night. The battalion numbers 286 men, and is under the command of Major J. T. Dean.

AVIATOR GORRELL TELLS STORY OF EXPERIENCE WHILE LOST IN MEXICO

Columbus, N. M., Mar. 27.—A tale of adventure sensation in the extreme was told today by Lieut. Gorrell, the army aviator who was lost for several days on the northern Chihuahua desert last week.

Gorrell told his story when he reached here today after having flown from General Pershing's base near Casas Grandes.

"I left Columbus on Sunday," he said, "and was making an uneventful flight when I suddenly discovered that my gasoline tank was empty. I plummeted to the earth and landed in safety."

"I spent the whole night in the hills without a blanket or any covering whatever. So intense was the cold that I nearly froze to death. To keep up my circulation, I swung my arms for hours at a time."

"In the morning, with the aid of my field map, and carrying only a hint of water, I began a long hike in the hope of reaching some of our troops. I was afraid to eat for fear I would need my rations later. At noon on Monday I ran out of water, but I still hurried on, in spite of the heat—the most unbearable I have ever experienced. Soon I was convinced that I could never hold out under those conditions, and I started back—15 long miles towards a water hole which was shown on my map.

WAR COUNCIL IN SESSION AT PARIS

Fleet of Aeroplanes Guards Building in Which Representatives of Allies Consider Plans for the Future

Paris, Mar. 27.—Extraordinary precautions were taken today to prevent Zeppelins from raiding the building where representatives of all the allied nations were meeting in war council. The biggest fleet of aeroplanes assembled in months flew out at dawn to form aerial scout lines extending into the northern suburbs.

Working in relays, the swarms of aircraft constantly circled over the housetops, maintaining sharp watch for German machines.

The weather was considered favorable for Zeppelins. It was believed there was little cause for alarm, but no chances were taken of bombs crashing through the foreign building's roof while the conferees who guide the allies' destinies were assembled there.

Among the men at the council board while the aeroplanes cruised the sky lanes to keep harm away from them were the commanders of the British, French and Italian armies, the Serbian prince regent, the premiers of France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Serbia and other nations. Military questions were discussed today. Economic questions will be considered tomorrow. The conference probably will end tomorrow night.

RECORD BEEF PRICE IN PORTLAND MARKET

Portland, Mar. 27.—The price of beef struck a new high record today when steers on foot sold for \$8.75 at the North Portland stock yards. The wholesale price of beef may soon be advanced to 15 cents a pound.

HOUSE INSISTS THAT IMMIGRANTS READ AND WRITE

Washington, Mar. 27.—By a vote of 225 to 82, the house today retained in the Burnett immigration bill the clause providing that immigrants be required to read and write their own language. President Wilson is expected to veto the measure because of this clause.

TOWNS IN WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS FLOODED

Chicago, Mar. 27.—Two men had been drowned today in floods sweeping northwestern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The dead are Wm. Orr, station agent at Winslow, Wis., and Lester Keller, who perished near Mineral Point, Wis.

Dozens of towns are inundated. Winslow is under several feet of water. Citizens of Galena, Ill., are using boats in the streets. The rain which started Saturday, continued pouring today with undiminished volume.

DENIES RUMOR OF SCRAP IN MEXICO

El Paso, Mar. 27.—Unconfirmed reports that Villista snipers wounded six soldiers of the American expeditionary force near Namiquipa, and that several Mexicans were killed or wounded by the return fire, were denied today by J. O. Crockett, vice-president of the Mexico & Northwestern railroad. He stated he was in constant communication with Casas Grandes and points south.

Villa is fleeing from Namiquipa toward Sierra Tarahumares, according to army advices. A censored report from the expedition stated that Villa was impressing peons into his service and that all who refused to join him were executed. Thirty-five were conscripted at El Valle and at Namiquipa half the Carranza garrison is said to have disappeared. It may have joined Villa.

Villa's horses are poor. The Americans, within two days' ride of the outlaws, are better mounted and hope to head him off before he can obtain refuge in the Sierras.

Refugees arriving here said Villa had encouraged Canuto Reyes, his leader in the Torreon district, with reports of great victories.

They declared box cars carrying a number of women and children from Torpedo reached Monterey after Villistas had engaged in a running battle with the train guard. While bullets flew, the passengers built barricades of trunks and hid behind them.

R. F. Crosby, a miner of Parral, said that Mexicans there believed the Villistas' wildest stories, and that peons were gladly joining the bandits, hoping to live by looting. There are practically no peons employed in Parral at present, according to Crosby.

11 PERSONS LOST ON BRITISH LINER

London, Mar. 27.—Eleven persons were killed when the British liner Minneapolis was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean Wednesday, it was announced today.

The Minneapolis presumably was carrying troops or supplies to Saloniki. It was a 13,540-ton vessel and plied between European ports and the United States prior to the war. When the Voltorno was in trouble, the Minneapolis figured in rescuing its passengers. At the war's outbreak the vessel was taken over by the government and put in the king's service. First word of the sinking was brought to Marseilles by the British

SHELLS RAIN INTO FORTS OF VERDUN

Historic Buildings Are Endangered by German Fire, But French Are Confident of Holding Their Position

By W. F. Simms.

French Army Headquarters, Verdun, Mar. 27.—Thrice baffled in their efforts to enter Verdun, the Germans are today seemingly bent upon the city's destruction. Daily they hurl large incendiary shells into the business and residential districts. I saw several large fires raging simultaneously in private houses and trades blocks. From a military standpoint, the city is unscratched. Otherwise, however, it seems destined to become another Rheims, Arras or Ypres. Destruction of its beautiful cathedral, bishop's palace and other noted buildings is threatened.

About 350 big shells crash into Verdun every day. Our party arrived there during the morning when there was a lull. I asked the commander if he thought a bombardment would occur.

"Certainly, that's our daily ration," he replied.

As he spoke the terrific explosions began. The scene was intensely gripping. Great clouds of smoke pierced by red flashes of flame rose over the city. Guns hammered a titanic accompaniment.

Northwest we could see the crest of Douaumont under French fire. It resembled Vesuvius belching black smoke. On its southern slopes, German shells exploded thickly in flashes of fire. Smoke geysers shot up like magic mushrooms.

Paris had been confident about Verdun when we left the capital. But we found it to be an axiom that the closer one gets to the front the more confident French soldiers appear to be.

During the bombardment we entered an underground city, dug months ago in preparation for just such a shelling. Groups of soldiers off duty lay calmly on cots or sat on boxes of army beef absorbedly listening to a young violinist playing "Saint-Saens," "Leyceone" and other classics. Elsewhere troops were mending, writing, shaving or aiding at routine. It was just as if a complete peace brooded over the world.

Above them guns were shrieking fire and death.

Further heavy attacks on Verdun would not surprise the soldiers, but they believe all such assaults foredoomed to failure. Officers ask nothing better than a continuation of attacks since the enemy's losses rise higher with each onslaught.

Verdun seems impregnable. Certainly it is not to be taken without enormous losses to the attackers. Its sectors are like giant ant hills. Men and transports swarm incessantly day and night, methodical and unexcited, without haste. Ammunition is stacked at vantage points like cordwood. Guns seem to be there in unlimited quantities, likewise great stores of spare parts.

Verdun's defense marks an epoch in war history. The defenders are an inspiring sight—gay as the best of France's traditional warriors, hardened as Napoleon's forces, bulldogish as Britishers.

Undoubtedly they are better fighters now than they were at the start.

steamer Leicestershire, which caught her wireless call for help but arrived after the Minneapolis had disappeared under the sea. In announcing that 11 were "killed," the admiralty indicates that the vessel possibly was shelled. Others aboard are understood to have been saved.