

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

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

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WHOLE NUMBER 2666.

GERMAN SUBMARINE OFF ATLANTIC COAST

HOME GUARD TO BE ORGANIZED THIS EVENING

BRANCH OF THE PATRIOTIC SERVICE LEAGUE WILL ALSO BE FORMED

AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Patriotic Men of the Community Are Invited to Aid in Work for Nation

The boys have been marching off to the front; the girls have organized the Honor Guard, citizens generally, quite a number of whom are women, are organizing the Red Cross, and tonight men will have their inning. A rousing meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, at 7:30 this evening. It is for men. The purposes are two. First, the organization of a Grants Pass branch of the Oregon Patriotic Service League, and second, the organization of a company of Home Guards.

The Patriotic Service League is one of the most important organizations in putting the people of Oregon behind the government in this emergency. It is recognized by the governor and big business enterprises of the state generally as the medium for getting to the people information and instruction as to how best to make their patriotic efforts count—and as a means for them to keep in touch with the other communities of the state. Practically every section of the state has organized local branches. Grants Pass will form her's tonight.

Some of the men who will not come under the limitations for the first line enlistments, propose to do their bit in actual service whether or no, and will organize a company of Home Guards to do such service as guard local strategic points such as railroads, bridges, tunnels, water supply reservoirs and the like. Men are urged to come out tonight.

GIRLS' HONOR GUARD MEETING WEDNESDAY

Arrangements for perfecting the organization of a local chapter of the Girls' Honor Guard are progressing rapidly. State headquarters were unable to forward the blank pledges, but will send them within the week.

At a meeting of the organization committee held last evening, a general call was issued to the girls and young married women of the city between the ages of 14 and 30 for a mass meeting Wednesday evening, at 7:30, in the Chamber of Commerce rooms. At this meeting the permanent organization will be made and plans for the active work of the Guard presented and discussed. All those eligible to membership are requested to be present.

The work of the Guard is divided into three general classifications: "First aid to the wounded," including courses in emergency treatments, bandage making and applying, diet cooking, use of tourniquet, hypodermic, etc.; "first aid to families," including courses in care of children, cooking, sewing, social services, etc.; and "first aid in general utility," including courses in such subjects as auto driving and care, shorthand, telegraphy, wireless, farming, etc.

BIG GAME SOUGHT BY GERMAN DIVER

Belief That Craft Is Hunting for Vessel Bearing Minister Balfour and General Joffre

New York, April 17.—Belief that Germany may have obtained information in some way of the departure of British Foreign Minister Balfour, General Joffre, French Minister of Justice Viviani and other members of the allied commission en route here, was expressed here this afternoon as explaining the sudden appearance of a U-boat off the American coast.

It was recalled that Germany learned in some way of the departure of Lord Kitchener when he was en route to an allied conference and sank the vessel on which he was a passenger. The report of the engagement with the submarine with the destroyer Smith served to emphasize the dangers faced by the allied commissioners in their journey to this country.

GERMANY TO STATE HER TERMS OF PEACE

Christians, April 17.—Germany shortly is to issue to neutral nations a statement of the terms on which she considers peace negotiable, according to rumors in diplomatic circles today.

The reports came from sources known to be closely identified with the German officials' plan.

Those closest in touch with the German movement here had not heard any details of what Germany proposes to offer. They did not believe, however, there would be many concessions, and some believed Germany's proffer will adhere strictly to the one tentatively put forward in December.

Scandinavia is the center of Germany's peace efforts, aimed at Russia. That the Teutonic officials are bending every effort to realization of their hope of separate peace with the new provincial government at Petrograd, is apparent in every quarter here.

American diplomatic officials have been formally advised that the German government is behind the pseudo-socialist movement for peace. It was the German government that apparently started the socialist propaganda work and it was the German government that pushed it by active support.

Count von Bernstorff, prime apostle of peace propaganda work, has been selected as German ambassador to Sweden, purely in line with this Russian effort.

Meanwhile German propagandists of lesser caliber spread reports of Germany's desire for peace—carefully avoiding, however, any statement of terms.

CONSCRIPTION MAY LOSE IN CONGRESS

Washington, April 17.—Politics may beat the conscription army plan.

Growing fear on the part of many congressmen that they could no longer face their constituents with an "I kept you out of war" plea—should they vote for conscription—made it appear inevitable today that the volunteer plan will be given a trial first.

The compromise which seems likely to go through will be authorization for the president to call for 500,000 to 1,000,000 volunteers im-

TORPEDO FIRED BY DIVER MISSES U. S. DESTROYER

Belligerent Visitor Submerges After Unsuccessful Attack on Warship at Early Hour This Morning, a Few Miles Off East Coast, and Apparently Escapes

Washington, April 17.—Germany fired the first shot of the war of America against Germany today—and it missed. The information reached the navy department shortly after noon that the United States destroyer Smith was fired upon by a German submarine at 3:30 a. m. The torpedo launched by the U boat missed the Smith. The latter gave chase to the submarine, but the enemy U boat submerged and escaped.

Announcing the first engagement of the war, the navy department this afternoon issued the following bulletin: "Reports from Fire Island lightship to navy station at Boston and at New York that at about 3:30 a. m., the 17th, an enemy submarine was sighted by the U. S. S. Smith, running apparently submerged. The submarine fired a torpedo at the Smith, which missed her by thirty yards. Wake of torpedo plainly seen crossing the bows. Submarine disappeared."

The navy department had not heard about the clash until press reports brought word of it. Immediately Commander Belknap, navy censor, got the New York navy yard on the telephone and asked details. New York, too, was ignorant, but at once communicated with Fire Island lightship, from where the original report to Charlestown had been made. A few minutes later Sandy Hook flashed back the story to New York, which at once notified Belknap.

The submarine's efforts to sink the destroyer were the first definite evidence of the oft-repeated rumors that German U boats lurked off our coasts.

The fact that the Fire Island lightship conveyed the original information, led to the belief that the German was not far distant from New York City, inasmuch as the lightship is only 25 miles beyond Sandy Hook, the outer portal of New York's harbor.

While, for military reasons, the navy department does not say what is being done about hunting the submarine, it is assumed that a redoubled watch is being put into effect.

One of the numerous reports of submarines off our shores has been that a group of them were harbored in Mexican waters, ready to make a spectacular raid on one of the big American ports. The immediate effect of the Smith affair as the navy sees it, will be to stir up the country to a realization that war is at our shores, and to stimulate recruiting both for the navy and the army.

The destroyer Smith is of the "M" class, built in 1909, with a length of 288 feet and a displacement of 700 tons. Her speed is 29½ knots an hour, and she is armed with five 14-pounder guns and three 18-inch torpedo tubes. She carries 87 men.

The scout cruiser Chester, in charge of the patrol in the New England district, displaces 3,750 tons, has a speed of 26 knots and is lightly armored. She carries two 5-inch, six 3-inch and two 3-pounders, with two torpedo tubes. Her complement includes 356 men. She was built in 1906.

When the U-53 arrived at Newport, Captain Rose especially called attention to the fact that he had not put in for fuel—nor did he take any aboard.

The actual appearance of a fighting submarine on this side has naturally aroused the greatest speculation as to the possibility of a secret base having been established at some point within comparatively easy reach from home waters. No information is available, however, as to whether the navy department believes this may be the case.

Immediately, to be raised within ninety days.

At the same time, the machinery for conscription will be authorized and put into motion so that if the volunteer system does not work within ninety days, conscription could be put into effect immediately thereafter.

This is the situation in the house.

The senate, on the other hand, appears more favorably inclined to the conscription plan. Senator Chamberlain believes there is only one vote on the senate military committee which favors compromise. Chamberlain feels there is sufficient volunteer provision in the bill as it

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NEW YORK CITY NOW IN WAR ZONE

Steps Are Taken for Protection of Eastern Coast Now Menaced by Submarines

New York, April 17.—The greatest city in the world is in the war zone this afternoon. The greatest secrecy is being maintained as to steps that are being taken to protect the port, but with a German U boat reported by the navy department immediately off the coast, the city was admittedly menaced.

Late reports from the Boston naval station indicated the belief that the submarine which attacked the U. S. destroyer Smith might be off the Jersey coast.

Fire Island, from which original reports of the hostile ship's presence came, is only 35 miles from Sandy Hook, the entrance to New York bay. If successful in eluding the American patrol ships, the submarine might slip into Long Island sound and bombard outlying sections of the town.

New York harbor is guarded by submarine nets, it is known, but whatever defenses there are is kept secret by the navy department. The navy yard in Brooklyn was closed to every one this afternoon. Inquiries by telephone brought only the curt response that there was no information to give out. At Goueverneur's Island, headquarters of the army of the east, there was the greatest activity. Army aviators took to the air on various missions.

There are scores of towns along the New Jersey coast that are unprotected and might easily be bombarded by enemy submarines. Germany has bombarded many towns on the British coast.

The hotels at Atlantic City, fringing the famous board walk, offer a tempting target. They are entirely exposed to any fire that might be directed against them from the open sea. Undoubtedly they will be guarded by patrol ships.

With the presence of a hostile submarine now officially reported, an order from the navy department ordering all coast lights out at night, is believed to be a foregone conclusion.

Coney Island, ablaze with light as it is now at the height of its season, will be a perfect guide for a hostile ship approaching New York.

All resorts along the Jersey coast have been brilliantly lighted at night during the summer months in the past. Continuance of such illumination would outline the coast for scores of miles.

ALLIED OFFENSIVE GREATEST OF WAR

London, April 17.—The greatest offensive of the greatest of wars, was on today.

Over a front of nearly 170 miles Franco-British forces were driving with all the strength of energy carefully conserved through months of winter preparation. Forecast through four days of tremendous artillery concentration, the French movement began with a brilliant victory, despite the more and more desperate resistance by the Germans.

Laon, one of the most important of the center supply stations on the Germans' line, is now added to the list of German key points directly menaced by the Franco-British attack. It was apparently the direct object of the first smash with which General Nivelle threw his massed forces against the enemy. That tremendous blow swept the Germans off their feet, forced them back of the

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FIVE KEY POINTS IN HINDENBURG LINE MENACED

THE ALLIED ARMIES ARE MAKING PROGRESS ALL ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT

ST. QUENTIN IS SOON TO FALL

Lens and La Fere Are Also Closely Pressed and Must Soon Capitulate

London, April 17.—Five key points to the much-vaunted Hindenburg line were struck at so savagely by the great Franco-British drive today that their continuation in the enemy's hands much longer seems impossible.

Of the five, Lens, LaFere and St. Quentin may fall to the allied onslaught at almost any hour. Cambrai and Laon are less closely enveloped, but the menace of the drive was none the less potent.

General Haig's report today told of another successful thrust to the south of Cambrai, around Epehy, aimed at Le Catelet, eleven miles south at Cambrai.

The Paris official statement more than confirmed the most sanguine hopes of success in the joint offensive entertained here.

General Nivelle reported a desperate German attempt at Alilles to stem the French tide at Laon. Alilles lies seven miles to the south of Laon. The attack was repulsed by the French.

Again Nivelle's forces withstood another powerful German counter-attack at Courcy, four miles north of Rheims. It is in these two sections, apparently, that the French wedge has been thrust farthest against the German lines.

Unofficial battle front dispatches received here today declared the German losses were tremendous in opposing the French offensive.

The Soissons-to-Rheims battle front selected by the French staff as the spot in which to strike is ideal for offensive fighting. It is slightly rolling country, permitting the operation of vast forces and sufficiently clear to enable the best maneuvering. Moreover, aside from the favorable nature of the country itself, the spot is strategically well situated, since every blow there is a jar to the German line northwest to the channel.

The German line makes a vast blunt angle around La Fere, heading on almost straight line around to Verdun. The base of this angle—on the new Hindenburg line—is Laon. The French blow is directly against this point.

CONVICTED ROSEBURG BANKER PARDONED

Washington, April 17.—President Wilson has pardoned Thomas R. Sheridan, president of the First National bank of Roseburg, Ore., who was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary for withdrawing funds of depositors, according to Senator Phelan, California, today.

Sheridan contended he had written consent of certain depositors to withdraw their funds. His case was recently brought before the federal supreme court.

TURKEY AND BULGARIA BREAK WITH UNITED STATES

Zurich, April 17.—A report received here today declared that Turkey and Bulgaria have formally broken off relations with the United States.