

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



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AMERICAN SHIP SINKS GERMAN U-BOAT

MONGOLIA FIRES FIRST GUN OF WAR

Anniversary of Battle of Lexington Marked by Sinking of German Submarine by American Liner—Naval Gunners Aboard Make Clean Hit at 1000 Yards, Shattering Periscope—Shell Disappears and Oil Floats on Water When U-Boat Disappears

LONDON, April 25.—Captain Rice, of the American steamship Mongolia which has arrived at a British port, told the Associated Press today that the Mongolia had fired the first gun of the war for the United States and sunk a German submarine.

April 19, the day on which the Mongolia fired the first shot of the war, is the anniversary of the battle of Lexington, when the first shot was fired in the American revolution.

Clean Hit at 1000 Yards. The submarine, Captain Rice said, was about to attack the great liner in British waters on April 19. He declared there was absolutely no doubt that the U-boat was hit and that there was every reason to believe it was destroyed.

The periscope was sighted dead ahead on the last afternoon of the voyage. The captain gave the order for full speed ahead with the intention of ramming the submarine.

The periscope disappeared and a few minutes later reappeared on the ship's broadside. The gunners fired hitting the periscope squarely and throwing up a fountain of water.

Shell Disappears. Even more pertinent a fact, as regards the ultimate fate of the submarine, was that the shell disappeared immediately after the hit was made. The captain stated that a shell always ricochets in the water and can be seen again unless it find the mark. Oil also was seen on the water after the submarine disappeared.

The Mongolia was going at full speed and was a long distance away when the spray and foam subsided but from the bridge the officers observed the spot through their glasses and they are confident the submarine was sunk.

Captain Rice paid a high tribute to the gunners and to the manner in which they were handled by their officers.

Captain's Tribute. "For five days and nights," he said, "I hadn't had my clothes off and we kept a big force of lookouts on duty all the time. It was 5:20 o'clock in the afternoon of the 19th that we sighted the submarine. The officer commanding the gunners was with me on the bridge where in fact we had been the most of the time throughout the voyage.

"There was a haze over the sea at that time. We had just taken a soundings for we were getting near shallow water and we were looking at the lead when the first mate cried: 'There's a submarine off the port bow.'

"The submarine was close to us, too close, in fact, for her purposes and she was submerging again in order to maneuver in a better position for torpedoing us."

Hunted for U-Boat. "We saw the periscope go down and

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOMEN'S DEFENSE WORK

WASHINGTON, April 25.—An advisory committee on women's defense work, headed by Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, as chairman, has been appointed by the council of national defense to consider and advise how the assistance of the women of America may be made available in the prosecution of the war.

ENTENTE ASKS NO DEPARTURE FROM POLICIES

Balfour States That Allies Would Not Think of Asking United States to Depart From Traditions or to Enter Into Any Alliance Which Might Prove Embarrassing.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Arthur James Balfour, British foreign secretary, stated today that the allied governments would not think of asking this country to depart from its traditional policies or enter into any formal alliance which might prove embarrassing.

"Our confidence in the alliance and assurance of this government," Mr. Balfour said, "is not based on such shallow considerations as arise from treaties. No treaty could increase our unbounded confidence, that the United States, having come into the war, will see it through to the great end we all hope for."

No Ordinary Struggle.

Mr. Balfour, after his first two days in the American capital consented to an interview to express his gratitude for the warmth of his reception. "For two and a half years," Mr. Balfour continued, "people here in this country have watched the great and bloodstained drama abroad and with each passing month the conviction has grown that this was no ordinary struggle involving a few miles of territory or some small national ambitions but nothing short of the whole welfare of mankind."

Such a cause, Mrs. Balfour said, could not fail to affect the United States.

"And now, after all these months you feel impelled to enter the struggle. I am certain you will throw into it all your resources, incomparably the richest in the world, all your man power and your will and effort, I am sure nothing will turn you from your conscientious task until success crowns our joint efforts."

Hero of the Marne.

Mr. Balfour, commenting on the arrival of the French commission here today, spoke of General Joffre, one of its members as "the successful general commanding the allied forces at one of the most critical moments in history."

"We rejoice to think," Mr. Balfour said, "that the hero of the Marne has come to join us in laying before the people of the United States our gratitude for the infinite aid and moral encouragement given to the allied cause. I am certain that the recognition accorded to them will be not less warm or heartfelt than that so ungrudgingly given us."

GERMANS FIGHT TO KEEP GAVRELLE

BERLIN, April 25.—Since yesterday and this morning, says the official statement issued by the German army headquarters staff, fighting has continued for possession of the village Gavrelle, six miles north of Arras. On Monday, the statement adds, 650 British soldiers were taken prisoner. Twenty airplanes were brought down by the Germans on Monday and nineteen entente machines were accounted for yesterday on the western front.

Heavy artillery fighting is again in progress over the front of the French offensive. Attacks by the French near Hartebise in the vicinity of Brionnet and west of the Salpêtres are said to have been unsuccessful.

CHICAGO, April 25.—This afternoon May wheat reached \$2.50 a bushel and \$2.51 3-4 was bid. Prices of wheat, corn and oats were all on the highest level in the history of the board of trade. At St. Louis another record was hung up in the sale of No. 2 red wheat for immediate delivery at \$3 a bushel.

SPEAKER CLARK LEADS DEBATE ON ARMY BILL

Spears That He Cannot Stand by President Whom He Declares Wrong—Pleads That Young Men Be Given Chance to Offer Services Voluntarily.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The house and senate resumed debate today on the war army bill. House leaders hoped to reach a vote by Friday but this appeared by no means certain, since more than sixty members still were to be heard, including Speaker Clark, who was to speak today in opposition to a draft provision.

In the senate a similar situation existed. Many senators wanted to express their views on the bill before consenting to a vote and leaders dislike to resort to the new rule under which debate may be limited. Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee expected to voice sentiment in the senate today, however, an agreement to set a time for voting.

Assaults Plutocracy.

Members on the floor and visitors in the galleries broke into cheers at the outset of debate on the army bill in the house today when Representative Huddleston of Alabama, who opposes the selective draft, read a list of names of men who he said favored it. Among them was Henry P. Davidson, Frank A. Vanderlip, Frank A. Munsey, Theodore N. Vail, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Elihu Root and J. P. Morgan. Huddleston also declared that most of the pleas for the war conscription came from members of such organizations as the Harvard, Yale and Union League clubs and not from the working people of the country.

"Everybody who is familiar with industrial oppression and reaction in its most vicious form," he said, "will recognize the men named. They and their associates are the men who rule the nation. They rule it through their newspapers and their wealth."

Clark Opposes Measure.

Deplored that he could not stand by the president, whom he unreservedly declared wrong on the question, the speaker pleaded that young men be given an opportunity to offer their services voluntarily.

"I protest," he shouted, "against having the slur of being a conscript being placed upon the men of Missouri. So far as Missourians are concerned there is precious little difference between a conscript and a convict."

The speaker made a defense of congressmen who have stood by the volunteer plan, declaring that the volunteers have done most of the nation's fighting.

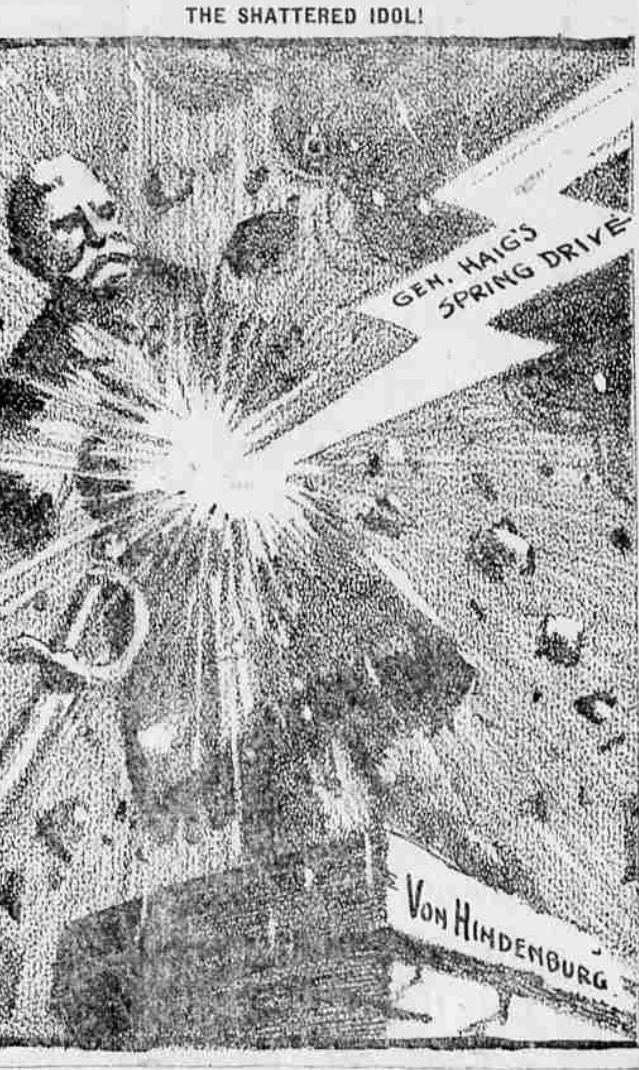
Advocates of selective conscription without the volunteer amendment claim a majority of sixty or seventy in the house.

RUSSIAN NAVY READY FOR ATTACK BY THE GERMANS

LONDON, April 25.—The council of army and navy delegates at Sveaborg has decided to send a wireless message to the allied fleets saying that the Baltic fleet and the army defending its base are in complete readiness to fight to the last in defense of free Russia, according to a Helsingfors dispatch.

The message will add that the soldiers and sailors are in perfect union with their officers. This action is intended as a reply to reports that the Baltic fleet was disorganized and incapable of fighting.

NEW YORK, April 25.—The 32,120 ton passenger steamship built for the Holland-American line in England under the name of "Statendam," and taken over by the British government in 1914 for war purposes, reached an American port under a White Star line name.



\$200,000,000 LOAN MADE TO ENGLAND BY UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Secretary McAdoo today handed the British ambassador a treasury warrant for \$200,000,000, the first loan made to any entente government by the United States under the \$7,000,000,000 war finance measure.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador, handed to Secretary McAdoo a receipt, completing the transaction. The amount of the loan was deposited today in the federal reserve banks by banks subscribing to the \$250,000,000 issue of treasury certificates of indebtedness due June 30. The \$50,000,000 remaining of the issue will be disposed of in a manner yet to be announced.

Great Britain will save approximately \$3,000,000 annually in the interest charges by obtaining the loan from the government instead of the private institutions as was contemplated as the government's interest rate will be three and one half per cent as compared with a minimum of five per cent on a private loan.

Great Britain is spending approximately \$8,000,000 a day for foodstuffs and munitions in the United States.

A similar loan may be made to Italy soon and other sums will be credited to Great Britain or her allies periodically in the near future as parts of the loan authorized by the seven billion dollar war finance measure.

RIGHT OF WAY CROPS FOR FARMERS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—Crops of volunteer oats, barley and hay growing on the right of way of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon and California were offered to farmers free of charge today by W. R. Scott, vice president and general manager of the company. It was estimated that more than 12,000 acres are involved. The only restriction imposed was that farmers do their harvesting under supervision of railroad section men. Mr. Scott also announced that division superintendents along the Southern Pacific lines had been instructed to urge section men and agents to see the right of way lands for truck gardening.

VILLA ESCAPES IN UNDERCLOTHES AFTER A DEFEAT

JUAREZ, Mexico, April 25.—Carranza forces in command of General Eduardo Hernandez met and defeated the principal command of Francisco Villa at Carmen between San Buenaventura and Moctezuma yesterday morning according to the official report of the battle received from General Murguía, the commander in chief of the division of the northwest.

General Manuel Ochoa, one of Villa's commanders was killed in the fighting at Carmen. His body was found. Three hundred Villa troops were killed and wounded, the report says.

Villa was in personal command of his troops, prisoners said. General Murguía was making preparations late last night to take charge of the Villa pursuit in an effort to surround the bandit chieftain.

Losses of the government troops were light, according to the official report, because of the superiority in machine guns and mountain artillery of the Carranza forces. Many ragged followers of Villa deserted during the battle, saying they had nothing but parched corn to eat for a week.

Confirmation of the narrow escape of Francisco Villa at San Miguel de Bahiaca last Thursday was also contained in today's official report.

The report says Villa escaped in his underclothes and on an unsaddled horse after the Yaqui Indians had crept up to the house where he was staying.

RUSSIAN PEASANTS FIRM FOR WAR

PETROGRAD, April 25.—The Grand Committee of the Alliance of Peasants has addressed the following petition to the peasants at the front: "Do your duty. Do not fear that the lands will be divided without you. This division cannot be made by the enemy might. Only the consistent assembly, wherein you will be represented will decide this important question."

JOFFRE GIVEN HEARTY GREETING AT WASHINGTON

French War Commission Headed by Hero of Marne and Former Premier Paid Every Honor by United States—Driven Through Streets Lined by Cheering Crowds—Cavalry Escort.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The French commission headed by General Joffre and former Premier Viviani landed today at the Washington navy yard today soon after noon.

The reception of the French mission transcended the usual diplomatic courtesies. Rousing cheers and handclapping greeted the Frenchmen. Marshal Joffre, hero of the Marne, was the center of interest, although Rene Viviani, head of the commission was warmly received. As Marshal Joffre stepped from the Mayflower, a young French officer, already ashore, kissed his hands.

Every Honor Paid.

Headed by Secretary Lansing, American officials paid the visiting Frenchmen every honor.

When the Mayflower came to her wharf, marines and sailors kept back all but those directly connected with the reception ceremonies. Attaches of the French embassy and of the state department waited, carrying French and American flags.

Marshal Joffre, Minister Viviani and the other members of the party lined the rail of the Mayflower, with them being Ambassador Gussersund, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, Rear Admiral Huse and other officials who went to Hampton Roads to welcome the visitors.

As soon as the gang plank was run out, Secretary Lansing boarded the vessel and warmly clasped the hand of Minister Viviani and Marshal Joffre and other members of the mission. During the brief ceremony the ship's band played the Marseillaise.

Cheered by Crowds.

The formal welcome over, the party left by Hayflower and Marshal Joffre and Minister Viviani shook hands with every one. Both remarked on the warmth of their welcome. The marshal smiled as moving picture machines clicked busily.

The ceremonies over, the party was driven to the home of Henry White, former ambassador to France, which will be their headquarters. They were escorted by two troops of cavalry. The streets were lined with cheering crowds.

The members of the commission will be received by President Wilson tomorrow.

NORWEGIAN SHIPS SUNK BY U-BOATS

LONDON, April 25.—A statement from the Norwegian foreign office as forwarded from Copenhagen by Central News, reports the sinking of the following Norwegian vessels: Sailing ships: Vestfold, Ville-De-Dieppe (1254 tons gross), Shield, Steamships: Gerda (979 tons); Gisko, (1643 tons), Gudo, (870 tons), Ellida (1124 tons), Valeris.

The Danish steamship Ydan (645 tons) from Friedrichshafen for Christiania with passengers and freight, has been captured by the Germans.

Three of these vessels are not listed in maritime reference books. Although no Norwegian steamer Valeris is given there is a Norwegian sailing vessel of that name 2140 tons gross.

SARAH BERNHARDT CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

NEW YORK, April 25.—A bulletin issued today by the physicians attending Sarah Bernhardt said there had been no change in her condition, and that they were "satisfied with her progress so far." The actress underwent an operation for an infected kidney early last week.

BRITISH GAIN STEP BY STEP BLOODY DRIVE

Over 3000 Prisoners Taken and Hamlet of Bihem Captured—Attack Made Along Three Mile Front—French Artillery Again in Action—Town of Monchy Le Preux is Bloodiest Spot in World's War—Germans Slaughtered Wholesale.

LONDON, April 25.—The British have taken 3029 prisoners since Monday morning, including 56 officers, according to the official statement, and captured the hamlet of Bihem east of Havrincourt wood.

In pushing the British offensive today General Sir Douglas Haig directed an attack along the three mile front between the Cojeul and Scarpe rivers where further gains have been scored. South of the Arras battle front, the British are eating bit by bit into the German lines between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

With the French armies along the Aisne front and in the Champagne the battle is confined mainly to the artillery although the French continue to make progress in local fighting.

Bloodiest Spot of War.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE, April 25.—The town of Monchy Le Preux which lies about five miles east of Arras, will stand out in history as one of the bloodiest spots of the world war. The fighting north, east and south of this little Artois village, perched upon a high knoll, has exceeded in intensity any of the individual struggles of the Somme. Efforts of the Germans to retake the village apparently have subsided on account of the sheer exhaustion of their available forces, and the British advance eastward of Monchy continues slowly but surely.

The ground around Monchy, as far as the eye can reach, is covered with the dead, the Germans having employed their old tactics of attacking in mass formation. Letters taken in the last two days from German prisoners, written in front of Monchy, say they regard the situation as worse than it was on the Somme while the casualties are mounting up as at Verdun. In one of the letters the opinion is expressed that what has made the fighting difficult has been the fact that the opposing forces have not occupied fixed lines but are scattered in half built trenches on this part of the front.

Force Is Wiped Out.

During one counter attack on Monday a force of 700 Germans took one bit of trench from a British outpost. The Germans continued to press forward not noticing that they were passing an isolated trench section on their right. When they were well beyond it several hundred British soldiers poured out of this trench section and the Germans, trapped between two knoll lines, were absolutely wiped out in the fighting which followed. It was a general melee in which the cries of the men engaged hand to hand could be heard plainly. The number of prisoners taken during this part of the front.

NORTHWEST STATES FIGHT RATE INCREASES

PORTLAND, April 25.—Members of the railroad and public service commissions of four states, California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho, will meet here Friday to determine whether to make a fight against the proposed fifteen per cent increase in railroad rates. It was announced at Salem last night. Pacific coast shipping interests have been asked to send representatives.