

FIRST SHOT OF WAR ON U. S. FIRED BY GERMAN SUBMARINE

DIVER SENDS TORPEDO AT DESTROYER SMITH

Submarine Sent Torpedo at American Destroyer Smith, But Missed Her—Destroyer Gave Chase But U-boat Submerged and Escaped—Attack Is Made Within Short Distance of New York Harbor—Has Base Supposedly in Mexico

Washington, April 17.—Germany fired the first shot of the war against America today—and it missed. Official information reached the navy department shortly after noon that the U. S. 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 ship 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 bow. Submarine disappeared."

The navy department had not heard about the clash until press reports brought word of it. Immediately Lieutenant-Commander Belknap, navy censor, got the New York navy yard on long distance telephone and asked details.

New York too, was ignorant of the incident but at once communicated with Fire Island lightship, from which the original report to Charlestown had been made.

A few minutes later, the lightship, 25 miles off Sandy Hook, flashed back the story to the New York yard, which at once notified Balknap.

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

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 does not say what is being done about hunting the submarine, it is assumed that a redoubled watch is being put into effect.

Reports to the Boston naval station indicated that the submarine was hovering off the Jersey coast midway between Atlantic City and Asbury Park and only a short distance below New York City itself.

The navy has no way of knowing whether the submarine has made the journey from Bremerhaven, intending to make a quick strike and return, or whether it has been lying off the American coast for some time getting its supplies from a hidden base on the Mexican coast or elsewhere along the Atlantic coast.

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 fact that the enemy submarine is in adjacent waters, still probably well armed, caused a great stir in shipping and naval circles along the coast.

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 29 1/2 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 26.5 knots and is lightly armored. She carries two five-inch, six three-inch and two three-pounder guns, 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 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.

The Official Report.
Boston, April 17.—Official reports of an engagement between the U. S. S. Smith, submarine chaser and an enemy submarine were received at Charlestown navy yard today from the United States scout cruiser Chester.

The message, which came from the Fire Island and was relayed by the Chester, read as follows: "At 3:30 a. m., April 17, apparently sighted enemy submarine, she fired torpedo. Missed U. S. S. Smith 20 yards. Wake plainly seen crossing bow. "Submarine disappeared." The Chester is flagship of the American patrol service.

DESPERATE CHARACTERS
Portland, Ore., April 17.—Half the night relief of police and a number of militiamen turned out early today to round up five suspicious characters loitering about the Harriman bridge across the Willamette. After two races up Third street and considerable hunting under docks and warehouses along the river the five were caught and taken to the police headquarters. They were students at the Oregon Agricultural college and were attempting to "beat" their way back to school.

WANT TO FIGHT US

El Paso, Texas, April 17.—Only eight deputies of the entire membership of the Mexican house of deputies favor Carranza's plan of neutrality, as announced in his message Sunday, according to word received here today from Mexico City. It is reported in unofficial advice reaching here that scenes of wildest disorder occurred when discussion of Carranza's address commenced, and that several deputies today spoke from the floor, openly advocating an alliance with Germany against the United States.

SUFFRAGE DEFEATED

Harrisburg, Pa., April 17.—By a vote of 101 to 94, the house of representatives today spoke out a proposed constitutional amendment establishing equal suffrage. To pass the bill 104 votes were required.

CALLED IN BANKERS

Washington, April 17.—Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo today called upon the big banking interests of the country, including J. P. Morgan & Co., for suggestions as to floating the \$7,000,000,000 bond issue.

WOULD TURN PLANTS OVER TO GOVERNMENT

Chicago Packers at Same Time Say Meat Supply Must Be Conserved

Washington, April 17.—Government supervision at least during the war of America's great meat packing industries is expected to result from the offer of the nation's packing plants to turn their plants over to the government.

The packers who have tendered their plants to the government represent a combined industry of \$1,000,000,000. They are:

Armour and company, Swift and company, Cudahy and company, Wilson and company, Nelson Morris Packing company.

The packers warn that unless immediate action is taken by the government to cooperate with the packers in conserving the meat supply the nation must soon go on meat picket system, similar to the bread and meat system now in vogue in several European countries.

The Council of National Defense would supervise the work of conservation and dissemination. Julius Rosenwald, member of the advisory commission of the council, and Secretary of Agriculture Houston, probably would head the department in charge of this important work.

By the arrangement, the middleman would be reduced to a nonentity insofar as a middleman's power to make prices to the retailer in any way affect distribution is concerned.

Conferences between Rosenwald and the packers continued today. The sessions are executive.

BRIDGE DISPUTE SETTLED

The bridge controversy between Marion and Polk county is settled. Marion county is now free to build a high level deck steel bridge as recommended by the state highway commission on January 17. Polk county will enter no objections and the vexing question is finally settled.

This was brought about today when the Polk county court through its attorneys offered to the Marion county court through McNary and McNary to pay its proportion of a new bridge, \$41,270 and to also pay \$2000 towards the maintenance of the free ferry. Polk county is to also pay 30 per cent of the maintenance of the new bridge.

The new bridge will be of the high level type according to the plans of the state highway commission; with a first class wooden approach on the Polk county side.

Levi Hurlbut, aged 84, died Sunday morning at the home of his son, John Hurlbut, of Albany.

CONSCRIPTION MAY YIELD TO VOLUNTEERING

President Invites Republican Floor Leaders for a Conference

SENATE IS SOLID BUT HOUSE AFRAID OF IT

Secretary of War Backed by President Refuses Any Compromises

By Robert J. Bender. (United Press staff correspondent.)

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 immediately, to be raised within 90 days. At the same time, the machinery for conscription will be authorized and put into motion so that if the volunteer system doesn't work within 90 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 in the senate military committee which favors a compromise. Chamberlain feels there is sufficient volunteer provision in the bill as it stands to give that system thorough test while the actual work of preparing for conscription—which admittedly will take two or three months—is being done.

Senate May Act First.
It was indicated today that the senate committee will not wait for the house committee's action on the bill much longer. The situation is better in hand, from the administration's viewpoint, in the senate than in the house and it may be that the upper branch will get the jump and pass the whole bill back up to the house.

Unless President Wilson and Secretary Baker weaken and accept a trial of the out-and-out volunteer system, it appears likely that there will be considerable debate on the army bill and it probably won't become a law for some time.

A popular demand that Theodore Roosevelt be permitted to lead a division abroad as soon as he can raise it, has sprung up all over the central western part of the country, if a rush of

(Continued on page six.)

NEW YORK CITY NOW WITHIN WAR ZONE

Germany Brings War to Suburbs of Greatest City in the World

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. S. 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.

Coast Will Be Dark.
The navy yard in Brooklyn was closed to every one this afternoon. Inquiries by telephone brought only the curt reply: (Continued on Page Three.)

BANKER PARDONED

Washington, April 17.—President Wilson has pardoned Thomas B. Sheridan, president of the First National bank of Rosburg, 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 United States supreme court.

RUSSIAN WOMEN TO VOTE

Petrograd, April 17.—A congress of the council of the workers and soldiers' delegates today adopted a report providing for election of a constituent assembly for Russia as soon as possible. The election, according to the recommendation is to be held under the supervision of the duma council and all above 20 years old will have the privilege of voting—women included.

BULGARIA AND TURKEY

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

GERMANY WILL STATE PEACE TERMS WHICH CAN BE NEGOTIATED

Sends Spy Bernstorff to Sweden to Work for Peace with Russia

By William G. Shepherd. (United Press staff correspondent.)

Christiania, April 17.—Germany is shortly to issue to neutrals 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' plans.

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, that there would be many concessions from the unofficial, but highly inspired, outlines of Germany's demands given out both at Washington and in Germany.

The famous news tender last 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 provisional 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 calibre spread reports of Germany's desire for peace—carefully avoiding, however, any statement of terms.

Schwab Turns Down Huge German Bribe

Boston, Mass., April 17.—Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel company, was offered \$100,000,000 by a German emissary if he would cease making munitions for the allies. This astonishing statement was made by Mayor Curley, of Boston, at a big patriotic gathering here Sunday.

Mayor Curley said he had received this information from Mr. Schwab himself. Mr. Schwab told him, the mayor said, that the offer was made two days before congress declared a state of war with Germany.

"And this big American, who stood for the great principles of the republic, refused," added the mayor amid applause.

The girls Honor Guard of Astoria has leased a tract of filled in land and will plant it with potatoes.

FIVE KEY POINTS MAY GIVE WAY AT ANY HOUR

Lens, La Fere and St. Quentin Almost Within Grasp of British While Cambrai and Laon Are Menaced—Germans Make Desperate Struggle to Check Forward Rush of French, But It Is Vain—May Cut Main Supply Road at Any Minute

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, La Fere 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 LeCatelet, eleven miles south of 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 Ailles to stem the French forward rush at Laon. Ailles lies just seven miles to the south of Laon. The counter-attack was repulsed by the French.

Again, General 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 farther forward 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 battlefront selected by the French staff as the spot in which to strike is ideal for offensive fighting. It is a slightly rolling country, permitting the operation of vast forces and sufficiently clear to enable 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 LaFere, heading on an almost straight line around Verdun. The base of this angle—the new Hindenburg line—is Laon. The French blow is directly against this point.

Driving Wedge In.
London, April 17.—Field Marshal Haig today jammed his British forces a mile closer to LeCatelet and the main line of German communication between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

"In the neighborhood of Epehy, we captured Tombois farm and at night gained ground along the spur northeast of Epehy station, taking a few prisoners," he reported today.

"The weakly German story," the British commander in chief declared, "There are high winds and squalls of rain."

All the way from Fayet, a scant two miles north of St. Quentin, to Epehy—eleven miles north—the British now are established within two miles of the St. Quentin Cambrai high road. The road is really the artery giving life to the German forces at St. Quentin and LaFere. Once it is cut, the cities below must fall.

British now hold Fayet, Fresnoy-Le-Petit, Pontru, Leverguier, Villers, ground near Hardcourt, Ronseval, and today ground near Epehy. All are nearly equal distant from the "Hindenburg Line" of Cambrai-St. Quentin.

Greatest Offensive of War.
London, April 17.—The greatest offensive 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 throughout months of winter preparation. Forecast through four days of tremendous artillery concentration, the French movement began with a brilliant victory, despite the most desperate resistance from the German defenders.

Laon, one of the most important of the center supply stations on the German 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 their line trenches, inflicted devastating losses on the defending Teutons and so firmly established the French attacking forces that hurriedly

summoned German counter attacks could not dislodge them from the ground they gained.

London was thrilled today with the actual start of the greatest of offensives—the forward thrust for which every man, woman and child in the British empire has been working and sacrificing for the last six months. At least three million of France's and England's best troops are probably fighting along the gigantic front. More guns than the world has ever known before in one operation are belching forth death over this stretch of 170 miles.

French Wedge Pounded In.
It was along the famous "Aisne line" that the French made their greatest advances in the first blows struck by General Nivelle. It was here that the Germans stood firm after the retreat following the battle of the Marne.

The point of Nivelle's wedge was pushed into the German line at a point about midway between Soissons and Rheims, with another smashing blow struck coincidentally around Berry-Aube, where the German line turns and twists around Rheims. Ten thousand prisoners and a great quantity of supplies captured attested the irresistible force of these two great blows.

Meanwhile, the British forces have not stopped the force of their own drive. Like a skilled boxer, General Haig was "mixing" his blows today on the entire British front of fifty miles. Battle front dispatches indicated the perfect co-ordination of the Franco-British drive in the synchronous attack of both great armies. Haig was smashing away with Lens almost in his grasp; he smashed again nearer Cambrai; he pushed forward north of St. Quentin.

French Still Gain.
Paris, April 17.—Still driving ahead French forces today organized the positions they conquered in the first smash of their offensive today's attack. (Continued on page two.)



ABE MARTIN

THE WEATHER

WE WOMEN CAN DO OUR SHARE

Oregon: Tonight and Wednesday fair, light frost south, heavy frost east portion tonight; winds mostly westerly.