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EIGHT PAGES

AMERICA AND GERMANY MAY SPLIT

BEATING A BLOODY RETREAT ON HALF STARVED PONIES

Villa and His Outlaw Gang Leave Executed Deserters Along the Trail of His Fleeing Party.

FORCING PEONS TO JOIN HIS RANKS

American Forces are But Two Days in the Rear, With Carranza Troops Attempting to Head Him Off.

[By E. T. Conkle, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

EL PASO, Texas, March 27.—An unconfirmed report reached here today that six American soldiers had been wounded by peons sniping near Namiquipa and that several Mexicans had been killed or wounded by the return fire of the United States soldiers.

The report was denied by J. O. Crockett, vice president of the Mexico Northwestern railroad, who stated he has been in constant communication with Casas Grandes and points south. Leaving a trail of dead and dying, Villa, with remnants of his once mighty army, was today fleeing southward from Namiquipa in the direction of the Sierra Tahumar mountains, according to army advice. That Villa was killing deserters when caught and giving Mexicans the choice of the firing squad or joining him, was evident from a censored report from the expeditionary forces. Villa forced thirty-five young Mexicans to join his band at El Valle under threat of execution. Seven were impressed into his service at Namiquipa where the Villistas defeated a small force of Carranzistas.

The official reports from General Pershing's expedition state that Villa's horses were in bad condition. Better mounted American soldiers were within two days ride of the outlaw at last reports.

It was hoped that the pursuers might head him off before he reaches the Sierras. Carranzista detachments in his path have forced Villa to delay his flight. It is eighteen days since he raided Columbus, N. M., but the outlaw has not yet made good his escape. According to residents of districts Villa traversed, his men and horses were facing starvation. They were living off raids on ranches along the line of their flight.

Villa, however, was reported to have claimed great victories in messages to Canuto Reyes, a Villista general in the Torreón district, recently said to have been negotiating for amnesty from the defacto government. American arrivals from the Parral mining district said that it was unnecessary for Reyes to use conscription. They stated that conditions of unemployment among the peons were so deplorable, Mexicans joined Reyes in the hope of living by looting.

There was no confirmation of reports that Reyes threatened Torreón. The report that American women and children from Torreón reached Monterey, Mexico, in box cars after escaping Villa bullets by hiding behind

barricades of trunks in the cars, was also confirmed here.

Fox Eluded Capture.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 27.—Weeks and perhaps months of hard campaigning faces the American punitive expedition in its chase for Villa. Latest reports to General Funston indicate that the "fox of the Sierras" has eluded the attempting encircling movement of American and Carranza troops, and is now advancing rapidly through the Madera valley.

An official report to headquarters from General Pershing, only a portion of which was given out, stated that the punitive expedition has settled down to the work of "locating" Villa. No mention was made by Pershing of Carranzista aid.

Colonel Dodd with three columns of cavalry is now more than 250 miles from the border, according to the report. Establishment of a new field base at El Valle is announced.

Building a Road.

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 27.—Mexico soon will have Uncle Sam to thank for one good highway, unless the expected permission to transport supplies by rail from Juarez to Casas Grandes renders the desert road from Columbus to the expedition's base superfluous.

A corps of American engineers today are building a permanent road of rock and gravel to take the place of the treacherous sand trail which the United States' army followed on its first dash into Mexico.

Seventy-two additional motor trucks, many of them fitted up as water wagons, arrived here today to reinforce the overland supply trains. There is plenty of water here and at Casas Grandes, but camps protecting the communication lines are short of a supply.

Trapped on the Track.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BARABOO, Wis., March 27.—Trapped at a sharp curve while walking along the Chicago and Northwestern tracks, with an abrupt cliff at one side and Devils Lake at the other, Miss Lola B. Whitmore, 22, of Utica, N. Y., and Miss Carolina Duror, 21, of New York City, were killed by a train. The young women, students of geology at Chicago university, were visiting here.

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POISONER IS ANXIOUS FOR THE END TO COME

Dr. Waite Fears Electric Chair as Penalty for His Recent Misdeeds.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

NEW YORK, March 27.—With the conviction steadily growing in the minds of authorities that Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, self confessed aid in poisoning of his millionaire father-in-law, John E. Peck, was but one of perhaps several persons in a poison ring, District Attorney Swann turned every effort toward finding the accomplices. Practically every person to whom Dr. Waite was confidentially friendly being interrogated to throw what light he can on the affair. Mrs. Margaret Horton, the beautiful woman with whom he lived at the Plaza hotel, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Walters, has been "important evidence" to the district attorney and "will be available" if wanted. Mrs. Dorothy Van Palmenberg, friend of Mrs. Horton, was examined for four hours. She, too, is said to

have given important information. What this is, the district attorney has refused to divulge.

With the case of murder against Waite practically complete, and his relatives admit, certain to convict, effort was being made today to have the prosecution accept a plea of second degree murder. This would save Waite from the electric chair.

His aunt, Miss Catherine Peck, has agreed to furnish the money for his defense, if he will make a full confession of his misdeeds. Dr. Waite has returned to her about \$44,000. He obtained from her on various pretenses \$40,000 in cash and again as much in securities.

Recovered to an almost full realization of his awful prospect, Dr. Waite today in the prison ward at Bellevue hospital, seemed anxious to have the matter all over with.

"Why am I here? Why don't they take me away and have the thing over with?" he repeated a dozen times. His indictment is expected late today or tomorrow morning. One of the developments which confirm the suspicion that many more poisonings were in prospect, was the discovery that Dr. Waite was a close student of virulent disease germs.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PARIS, March 27.—The Germans continued to bombard the French front on the Verdun sector last night, but there were no infantry actions, the war office reported this afternoon. The cannons were violent of the Douaumont-Vaux front east of the Meuse and also around Moulainville and Chailillon. Mine fighting on the Daughter of Death Hill in the Argonne, resulted to the advantage of the French. Grenade fighting occurred on the Courte Chausse sector.

DESTROYING VERDUN.

[By Wm. Phillip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY AROUND VERDUN, March 27.—Thrills baffled in their effort to enter Verdun, the Germans are now seemingly bent on destruction of the city. Daily they hurl incendiary shells of large calibre into purely business and residential districts. In these sections I saw several large fires raging simultaneously. (The German official statement reported Verdun in flames.)

From the military viewpoint, Verdun is unscathed. Otherwise the city seems destined to become another Rheims, Arras or Ypres, through the utter destruction of its beautiful cathedral, bishops' palace and other buildings of note. About 350 big shells fall upon Verdun daily.

Our party arrived in Verdun in the morning, at coffee time when there was a lull. We asked the general in command if the bombardment would occur. "Certainly," he said with a smile. "That's our daily ration."

As he spoke the explosion recommenced from an elevation outside the town. The scene was intensely gripping. Great clouds of smoke, pierced by far away red shafts of flame, rose over the city. Guns hammered an cease compulsion.

To the northeast, the crest of Douaumont, scene of so much bloody fighting, was being laid under heavy fire from French guns. The ridge resembles Vesuvius, belching black smoke. On the southern slopes, German shells exploded thickly in flashes of fire. Smoke geysers shot up like magic mushrooms.

Paris was confident about the situation at Verdun when we left. But we found the axiom that the closer one gets to the front the more confident are the French soldiers, to be quite true.

During the bombardment, we entered the underground city of Verdun, dug beneath the citadel many months ago in preparation for just such shell fire. A group of soldiers, off duty, were tying calmly on coats or sitting on boxes of army beef, absently listening to a young violinist playing Saens Lelyone and other classics.

Elsewhere troops were mending, writing, shaving, baking or fiddling around in small routine affairs as if a monotonous peace brooded over the world and only petty events occurred to pass the time away. Up above, the

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ITALY TO STICK WITH THE ALLIES

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

Germany is Said to Have Made Desperate Efforts for Separate Peace.

SUPER WAR COUNCIL

Allies Hold Meeting Today Which is Expected to be Most Important Conference in History.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PARIS, March 27.—Germany has been making desperate efforts to detach Italy from the ranks of the allies. This was learned by the United Press today when the super-war council of the allies, one of the most important conferences in history, met for its first session at the foreign office today.

The information came from a most reliable Italian source. The Germans. It was learned, planned by shrewd propaganda and by a triumph at Verdun to create such dissatisfaction in Italy that the government would reconsider its plan to help "close the steel ring" around the central empires, by joining in the Paris program for concerted action.

Some hint of this German effort already has reached the Paris public. The Italian prime minister and foreign minister consequently received tremendous ovations enroute to the foreign office today.

The Germans, the United Press was informed, learned of plans for the super war council several weeks ago. Alarmed at the prospects that the allies would frame a program for the closest military, diplomatic and economic collaboration for maximum offensive efficiency, the kaiser decided an attempt to take Verdun, belying the moral effect of such a defeat on the allies would halt the conference.

At the same time he sent a shrewd hand of propagandists into Italy and began a campaign designed to foment trouble in Italy, in the German newspapers. The Germans particularly feared that an important result of the Paris conference would be the appearance of Italian troops on other fronts, knowing that the mountainous nature of much of the Austro-Italian front prevents the use of all Italy's forces.

The Italian government was on the alert and took quick steps to counteract the effect of this German propaganda. The Germans' failure to take Verdun dealt a final blow to the scheme, one of the most ambitious attempts to create a breach in the ranks of the allies since the beginning of the war.

What will come out of the all-

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GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERLIN, March 27.—Rouques of further heavy Russian attacks west of Jacobstadt and Postawoy, with enormous losses on the Slavs, was reported by the office this afternoon. Only secondary engagements have occurred since the Russian offensive on the Verdun front.

German aviators bombed the railway station at Dvinsk and Vitejki, through which Russians have been drawing supplies for the present offensive.

The principal activity on the western front occurred near St. Etel. The British destroyed 100 yards of German trenches on this sector.

In the region of Mokrzyce, Prussian troops recaptured the positions lost by the Germans March 20, taking 2,100 Russian prisoners.

The Hebe displaced 1,494 tons and was owned at Caen, France. The Khartoum was a 303 ton trawler owned at Hull. Shipping registers do not list the Cerne.

TRANSPORT SUNK.

BERLIN, March 27.—A French transport carrying troops away from Salonika, struck a mine and sank with large loss of life, according to Athens dispatches today. Only seventy-three persons were rescued.

TORPEDO BOAT MISSING.

BERLIN, March 27.—One of the German torpedo boats which engaged the British naval forces off the British coast Saturday has not returned and is believed to be lost, the admiralty admitted today. Two German armed patrol boats were also sunk. German naval aeroplanes attacked the Britishers and recorded several hits, heavily damaging one enemy destroyer.

STRUCK A MINE.

COPENHAGEN, March 27.—The small German steamer Greta struck a mine and sank outside Goltzlow, with the loss of about ten lives.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LONDON, March 27.—Three more vessels, two British and one French, have been sunk within the last twenty-four hours, with the probable loss of nine lives.

They are the French steamer Hebe, the British steamer Cerne and the British fish carrier Khartoum. All on board the Cerne are known to have been saved and it is believed the Hebe's crew was rescued. Nine of the Khartoum's crew are missing and probably drowned.

CORONER'S VERDICT.

DOVER, England, March 27.—That the channel boat Sussex was "struck by an enemy torpedo," was the finding of a coroner's jury tonight at an in-

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Germany, no Friend of America If the Sussex Was Torpedoed

[By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 27.—President Wilson and Secretary Lansing today considered the facts obtainable concerning the wrecking of the channel packet, Sussex, with probable loss of American lives. They had America's policy to determine in what may prove the most serious crisis faced in two years of submarine controversies—if present belief that a submarine torpedo was responsible for the disaster is borne out.

No expression is expected from either, until the evidence is clear. It is conceded it may be several days before it is known whether the vessel was a victim of a mine or a torpedo, and in the latter event, several days more before the nationality of the attacking ship is known.

The state department is vigorously attempting by cable to gather all available facts. Should this government become convinced of an unwarranted attack on the steamer, there is overwhelming belief here that a break with the kaiser must come. Practical proof by Germany that none of its vessels attacked the Sussex, many declare, is all that remains between the present situation and a complete rupture of German-American relations.

With the state department busy seeking to fix responsibility for the attack, the senate was looked to for vigorous expressions on the subject. Republicans in caucus were expected to discuss this new issue as well as the Mexican situation and probably demand a decisive and summary policy

in each case.

Chairman Stone, of the senate foreign relations committee planned to call on the president early today. It is anticipated he will be advised that the president desires no congressional discussion or action until he and the state department have determined a course of action.

Very Dark Outlook.

[By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Diplomatic relations with Germany probably will be broken off if the United States government finds a German submarine was responsible for the attack on the channel steamer Sussex, according to a high administration official today.

President Wilson is "awaiting the facts" it was stated at the white house. He has urged that all haste be employed by the state department in getting the official report of the attack on the Sussex to this country.

The president held a long conference with Secretary of State Lansing over the telephone and it is stated that official reports thus far received indicate clearly although they do not prove positively, that the Sussex was struck by a submarine torpedo.

A piece of bronze metal similar to that used in German torpedoes has been found in the Sussex wreckage, a report made by a French officer to the American consul at Boulogne and forwarded to the state department declares. It is further known that German submarines have been operating in that vicinity.

The state department holds the view that if it is established a submarine is responsible, there will be no need to inquire as to its nationality, inasmuch as neither Turkish or Austrian undersea boats have operated in the English channel.

This belief is also held at the white house. It is positively stated that no inquiry probably will be made to Germany, in the event that a German submarine is found responsible. This would be unnecessary, it is stated, because in view of the status of negotiations between this country and Germany on the U boat issue, the position of the United States has been set forth clearly and nothing but action by this government could remain.

This action, or any action, however, will wait upon replies to the general request already made for further information. The administration will be positive as to the circumstances of the sinking before it takes a step.

In all circles the situation today is regarded as extremely grave. Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee, called on the president to get reports of the latest developments in the case.

"The first report," Stone said, "is always the worst report. We are still hoping that the danger will be cleared."

It has been known for some weeks that the president was in possession of information from unquestionable sources that should this government sever diplomatic relations with Germany, the kaiser might declare war on the United States.

NOT ONE AMERICAN IS AMONG THE VICTIMS

All Accounted For on Board Unarmed, Unwarned Liner Which Met Disaster in the English Channel.

TWELVE BODIES RECOVERED, MANY LOST

London Papers Call the Attack Direct and Defiant Challenge by Germany to the United States.

[By Charles F. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

LONDON, March 27.—At least one American, it now appears certain, was lost in the sinking of the channel liner, Sussex, by a submarine or mine Friday afternoon.

After carefully checking over lists of survivors, the American embassy announced today that Miss Calliope Anastasia Fennell of New York is missing. Professor J. M. Baldwin, his wife and daughter, Elizabeth, were stricken from the list of missing on receipt of a cable from Paris that they were safe. The Baldwins are said to be at a private hospital near Boulogne where the daughter lies seriously injured.

Twelve bodies of passengers and members of the crew have been recovered. About seventy others are missing. Both the embassy and the admiralty continued the investigation in the Sussex disaster today. The admiralty has not yet issued a formal statement giving its opinion of the source of the explosion, though an official statement from the French ministry of marine states positively that the Sussex was torpedoed. The majority of the survivors arriving at Paris are positive that the Sussex was a submarine victim. Opinion among the survivors reaching Dover was about equally divided between the submarine and mine theory.

One report from Paris was that a sailing vessel, presumably captured by submarines, was used as a screen to the submarine's movements. The sailing vessel, several passengers ascertained, drew away without going to the Sussex' assistance after she was struck.

The owners of the Sussex have not yet received a report from Captain Moutflet, who is said to have been seriously injured by a falling mast.

In the absence of this report, they have added nothing to their early statement that the Sussex "met with a mishap."

The London newspapers generally agreed today that the Sussex was torpedoed and as on similar occasions in the past, speculated at length on what the United States will do.

"Obviously," said the Chronicle, "no more direct or defiant challenge was ever handed by one nation to another than that which Germany has launched at the United States. Whether the United States picks it up, or lets it lie, the world and all the belligerents will know with a clearness hitherto lacking, precisely where the greatest of the neutral countries stands."

Duplication by error of lists of survivors made it appear probable this afternoon that the Sussex death toll may be over 100. One newspaper estimate today was that 110 persons lost their lives.

Ambassador Page's private secretary reported from Dover this afternoon that George H. Crocker is the only American survivor there whose condition is serious. The others are

suffering only from the shock of the explosion. No Americans Lost. [By Charles F. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

LONDON, March 27.—Several Americans were seriously injured, but no American lives were lost in the disaster to the channel steamer Sussex, the American embassy announced this afternoon.

Miss Calliope Fennell of New York, who was reported missing, has been located in Paris. The embassy has confirmed press reports that Prof. J. M. Baldwin, Mrs. Baldwin and their daughter, Elizabeth, are at a hotel at Wimereux, near Boulogne.

All Accounted For. LONDON, March 27.—All Americans aboard the Sussex have been saved and accounted for, a statement issued by the American embassy today declared.

Baldwins are Safe. PARIS, March 27.—Professor J. M. Baldwin, his wife and daughter Elizabeth, reported among the Americans missing in the Sussex disaster, are at a private hospital near Boulogne, it was learned today. Miss Baldwin is injured about the head and legs. The Baldwins went to a suburban hospital outside the city of Boulogne immediately upon their arrival, without stopping to register, causing alarm for their safety.

Germany Awaits Official News. BERLIN, March 27.—English reports that a German submarine sank the channel packet Sussex, were generally disbelieved here today, though no official denial has yet been issued by the admiralty.

German submarines that may have been operating off the French coast, probably will not return to their bases for several days. In the meantime, officials expressed the hope that neutral powers, whose citizens may have been aboard the Sussex, will not form decided opinions from versions of the affair furnished through English newspaper sources. Dr. Seigfried Hecksher of Hamburg, foreign relations expert of the Reichstag, warned Americans against accepting English reports as true and scouted the idea expressed by the English press that there may be a break between the United States and Germany. "Neither President Wilson nor the American people, nor the kaiser nor the German people want war between the two countries," he said. "Where there is no desire for a conflict, it must be avoided. It is a fact that most of the critical situations between the two countries have been occasioned by the vitriolic practice of English news agencies in spreading poison both in Germany and America. Isn't every news item which Eng-

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