

12 VESSELS BURN IN \$1,000,000 FIRE AT BROOKLYN PIER

Explosions of Ammunition on One Steamship Cause Rumors of Plot.

Shipping damage estimated at \$1,000,000 was caused by explosions and fire early today at the foot of Congress Street, Brooklyn. Two steamships and ten smaller vessels were burned and the docks were damaged.

The damaged steamships are the Baron Jeddburgh and the Christian Haros, both owned by Furness, Withy & Co., of No. 22 Broadway, Manhattan. The fire extended to the tug blunker, owned by Bunker & Co.; R. J. Moran, owned by Moran Bros., and Mastodon, owned by the Boston Supply Co.; the lighters Lakeport of the Ward Line, Hilda of the New York Central, and Elizabeth, No. 26 and No. 30, the ownership of which is not known, and the scow Eden Tom.

The flames were first discovered on the dock, which was piled with general merchandise. So many reports came to headquarters regarding the explosions which were heard, that Lieut. Barnitz and Bussey of the Bomb Squad were hurriedly sent to investigate, while repeated alarms brought reserves from four stations and ambulances from the Brooklyn, Long Island College and Jewish Hospitals.

Owing to sugar in some of the cargoes a pall of heavy smoke bearing a strong, sickening, sweetish odor spread over the water front and lower Brooklyn and was carried up as far as the lower bridges. It had a peculiar effect on the eyes, affecting the lacrymal glands and bringing tears. For an hour the firemen worked under considerable difficulty, as the pall of smoke made it next to impossible to discover to what craft the blaze was spreading.

The fire was discovered by Charles Lehmkne, a watchman employed by the New York Dock Company. His alarm brought Fire Chief Hefferman with the first apparatus, five fire boats, three salvage corps and six chiefs, with Deputy Chiefs Lamborn and O'Hara, who took charge.

Larry O'Toole, employed by a private detective agency, told the police the Baron Jeddburgh was equipped with a 47 gun, and that at the outbreak of the fire he and several others went aboard and threw over 150 rounds of ammunition.

Sixty members of the crew of the Baron Jeddburgh, aroused by the explosions and the penetrating smoke, fled from the ship in a panic. They swarmed down the hawser and over the side, some dropping into the water and swimming ashore. The vessel was finally pulled into mid-stream and the fire fought from that position.

Except for the Christian Haros, all the craft were practically destroyed. The Haros and Jeddburgh were both in only recently from the Platte River, loaded with manila, hemp and gasoline.

While the other vessels were burning, fire from an unknown cause broke out on the deck of the steamship Esperanza of the Ward Line, docked at the foot of Jerusalem Street, having arrived yesterday from Cuba and Nassau. Capt. Curtis gave the alarm and the blaze was quickly extinguished by a detachment of firemen from the other blazes.

Three Trampmen Killed. PITTSBURGH, Pa., Aug. 20.—When a fast eastbound freight train derailed another freight train, also eastbound, near Pittsburg yesterday two men were killed instantly, another died later, and traffic on three tracks of the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad was blocked for several hours. The dead were members of the crew of the fast train.

Steamer Ractae Disabled. AN ATLANTIC PORT, Aug. 20.—The American steamer Ractae was brought into port to-night by a tug, which found her disabled off Cape Cod yesterday with leaky boilers. The vessel, formerly in the Great Lakes service, was on her way to an Atlantic port to be remodeled into an ocean tug.

DR. J. P. CAMPBELL'S ARSENIC WAFERS. The wonderful cure has been obtained in thousands of cases...

DO YOUR KNIT The First Big Definite Task of War for American Women

THE FAMILY HAS RESCUE OLD FASHIONED



There are 500,000 women knitters in and about New York. Our army and navy need 1,000,000 knitters in the next six months. Knitting colors for the army are gray or khaki. Knitting colors for the navy are gray or blue. Knitting colors for the marines is khaki. Knitting colors for selfish knitters are pale pink and purple. Not to know how to knit argues yourself unknown.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

FORWARD the Knitting Brigade! "American women must knit madly," Miss Florence Marshall, Director of the Women's Bureau of the Red Cross and President of the Manhattan Trade School, said today.

"Knitting is the first big, definite task laid upon the Women's Bureau and American women. We must not fail. We shall have other work to do in the near future, but we must not neglect this labor.

"For it can be enlisted the services of so many women who can do nothing else for their country. The busy housewives, the invalid shut-ins, the high school girls, their grandmothers at home, can spare, severally, at least a few minutes each day to knit for the Nation.

At least 500,000 women in and around New York have taken to knitting in the three years since the beginning of the war, but 500,000 more knitters are needed today.

Thousands have knitted for the Belgians and our other allies. More recently other thousands have procured wool and needles from the Comforts Committee of the Navy League, which sends sweaters, socks and other warm garments to the soldiers.

On every other piazza women are knitting for the Red Cross, which has pledged itself to send 1,500,000 knitted sets to France at the earliest possible moment.

Which means that the needles must click faster than ever. "Eighty stitches across the back," the measure of the soldier's swaters, must be chanted by other throat will go right on being ordered for the demand for the gaily flowered knitters' bags will largely over. The ghosts of the bridge, dancing and skating fads must cover in the outer darkness, while the shining needles click their requiem.

A KNITTED set for every two of its members is the goal erected by the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross, which includes women of New York and New Jersey. This division will send 510,000 sets of knitted garments to France at the earliest possible moment, and New York women have pledged themselves to knit 25,000 each of sweaters, mufflers, pairs of wristlets and pairs of socks. In less than two weeks the New York branch of the Comforts Committee of the Navy League expects to send 4,500 knitted garments to Washington.

A MILLION KNITTERS in New York and its vicinity will be none too many, if our soldiers and sailors are to keep warm this winter. And the million must knit to order.

Did you know that you can tell a patriotic knitter by her color? The pretty young woman who extracts from her poppy-strewn knitting bag a nondescript wad of pink wool cannot get away with a reputation for patriotism. They don't wear pink sweaters in the army.

In the army they want gray or khaki-colored sweaters. The navy's color is preferably gray, although blue will be accepted. The marines ask for khaki-colored sweaters. So the rainbow-hued wool is outlawed.

Neither does the mere display of one of those billowy, blossomy bags guarantee the owner's undiluted devotion to national duty. They have been known to hide a half-embroidered table cover—even a pair of dancing slippers.

WOMEN members of many Red Cross chapters in this vicinity have complained that their knitting needles are stopped because they are unable to get wool.

The Red Cross Supply Bureau, at No. 1 Madison Avenue, declares any shortage to be temporary and due to delays in transportation. The bureau says that it is in possession of 500,000



GEN. SIGEL'S GRANDSON CHANGES MIND; WILL FIGHT

Goes Before Board With Widowed Mother and Withdraws His Claim of Exemption.

Among the men accepted for the National Army in New York City is Harold Robert Sigel, grandson of the late Gen. Frans Sigel of the Civil War. He lives at No. 535 West One Hundred and Fifty-first Street, and when he appeared before Board No. 146 a week ago claimed exemption on the ground he was supporting his mother, a widow.

Yesterday young Sigel appeared again before the board, accompanied by his mother, who said to the board members: "We have thought it over, and I think I can manage if my boy goes to war. His grandfather, Gen. Sigel, fought for Lincoln and liberty. It is only right my boy should also do his share in the new fight for freedom.

"It means a sacrifice to give my son to the country, but I am proud that he has both the inclination and the opportunity to help perpetuate the name of Sigel in our country's history."

The young man, on being accepted for service, expressed the hope he would make a good soldier.

UNCLE SAM WANTS MEN FOR LONG PHONE SYSTEM

Coast Guard Recruiting Electricians to Man Line From Eastport to Rio Grande.

Uncle Sam is looking for several hundred experienced electricians to man what will be probably the longest telephone system in the United States. This system will be part of the Coast Guard and its wires will stretch from Eastport, Me., along the coast to the Rio Grande.

The Coast Guard also wants a number of young men who are ambitious to become radio operators. Young men with high school or academic education, between the ages of 18 and 24, are desired and they will be sent to the Coast Guard Academy at Port Trumbull, New London, Conn., for training.

WELCOME NEW MAGISTRATE.

John E. McEnehan Gets Tribute in Morrisania Court.

Magistrate John E. McEnehan, recently appointed, was fettered a rousing reception by friends who attended Morrisania Court today when for the first time since his appointment he sat in a court in his home section. The courtroom was filled with friends and relatives.

LOSS OF BRITISH SEAMEN.

Total of officers and men in Merchant Marine is 6,627. LONDON, Aug. 20.—On the break of the war 6,627 officers and men of the British mercantile marine, exclusive of those in the pay of the Admiralty, have lost their lives, according to a statement made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Sir Albert Stanley, President of the House of Trade.



WOMEN KNIT ON FOR NAVY LEAGUE IN SPITE OF SNUB

Daniels's Reported Refusal of Aid Won't Stop Making of Comforts for Sailors.

Despite reports that Secretary of the Navy Daniels has broken off co-operative relations with the Navy League and is declining further aid from that organization, "business as usual" was the order of the day at headquarters of the Navy League Comforts Committee, at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street.

At 10 o'clock things were in full swing. Women were sitting in every available chair in the large room busily intent on their knitting, while others were sorting and numbering the finished garments, which formed a huge barricade at one end of the room. A truck load of express packages containing garments which had been sent in from out-of-town workers had just been delivered to the receiving desk, and half a dozen women were employed in opening, sorting and checking them.

Mrs. Woodward, Secretary of the committee, when asked what effect Secretary Daniels's decision would have on their work, said: "We are going ahead with our work just as usual. We do not anticipate that there will be any further friction. At any rate, the work to which we have devoted so much time, energy and money must not be sacrificed to personal misunderstandings. The spirit of these women's work is too fine and unselfish to permit that. Our boys will need the garments which we are making in their hard service in France, and as there seems to be no supply elsewhere it would be most unjust to permit them to remain in need."

The work of the committee has been going on since April and 40,000 garments have been completed and shipped to sailors.

In many cases whole ships were outfitted. Sleeveless sweaters, socks, mufflers, caps and helmets are the articles of clothing which have been made. Heavy gray wool is used and the articles are all made by women who give their services free. The wool is sold to the knitters at cost by the committee, and a fund of \$5,000 has been raised to supply wool to those who wish to do something but are unable to buy material.

Mrs. Herbert L. Hatteries, Chairman of the committee, is largely responsible for the gratifying results which have been accomplished. She was influenced by Mrs. James Carroll Frazier, who is Chairman of the Washington branch of the league, to form the committee in New York shortly after our declaration of war.

MAN SHOT IN RAID LED BY A MINISTER

Sheriff Fires in Air as Alleged Crap Shooters Flee and One Is Found Wounded.

RIVERHEAD, N. Y., Aug. 20.—Robert Brown Jr., twenty, was shot in the abdomen late last night in a raid upon an old building in which it is claimed a number of young men were shooting craps. The raid was led by the Rev. Paul E. Edwards of the local Methodist church. He was assisted by Sheriff A. W. Biggs, Jail Warden Lewis Reshman and Charles H. Nesbit, a member of the church.

There were eight or ten young men in the building known as Hallett's Mill when the raiders approached. The Sheriff and Mr. Nesbit remained outside and the minister and warden entered. The men inside fled. All escaped except Brown, who was found wounded.

George Gould Jr. is Drafted with Brother

Second Son of Millionaire Must Appear in Toms River To-Morrow for Examination.

TOMS RIVER, N. J., Aug. 20.—George Gould Jr. of Lakewood, N. J., was summoned by Sheriff Alfred W. Brown to appear at this place on Tuesday for physical examination for the National Army.

Mr. Gould's brother Kingdon was among those examined in the first quota and was passed as physically fit. He will be summoned to Toms River on Sept. 1 with one-third of the original 150 men who are to leave Ocean County for the training camp at Petersburg, Va., on Sept. 5.

For Jobs in Federal Service. Civil Service examinations for first and second officers on health vessels, first and second assistant engineers on tenders, master on light vessels and other jobs in the Federal service will be held Sept. 19 at the United States Lighthouse Reservation, Tompkinsville, Staten Island.

SEVEN OUT OF 46 GIVEN EXEMPTION BY HUGHES BOARD

Mother Makes Plea for Only Son—Young Man With \$5,000 Salary Loses.

Of forty-six claims for exemption heard by the District Board in the Federal Building today only seven were granted.

Short work was made of what was reported by one of the committees as the prize application received to date. Alfred Hunter appealed from the decision of Local Board 148, on the ground of a dependent father. Investigation disclosed that the parent was himself seeking the exemption of the son on industrial grounds, the elder man being the chief owner of a corporation that paid the younger man a salary of \$5,000 a year. The application was unanimously denied.

The law was liberally interpreted in the case of an application from a ruling of Local Board 105, whose name was withheld. It was shown that the appellant's father was dead and his mother was incurably insane and confined in an asylum. The appellant is caring for a young brother and a sister, who also is mentally weak. The District Board held that while both parents were not dead, it was justified in holding the insane mother to be dead in the spirit of the law and reversed the Local Board.

Mr. Wood urged the lawyers to use sharper eyes in taking appeals for the Government and to renew their efforts to get at the facts of each case as speedily as possible. He advised the national committee will run high, probably 150 to each district, but urged that no individual case be overlooked.

"The appeals are running unusually high," said Mr. Wood, "and our lawyers are becoming more familiar with their duties they are finding, on going over records a second time, that there is a district is not too high to place the figure.

This would make approximately 25,000 appeals cases. Fully 60 per cent. of these are for dependency and require the closest examination. The other 40 per cent. cover appeals on exemption for physical disability, industrial and agricultural claims, religious objections and "seaman's" engaged in the merchant marine."

Mr. Wood cited the case of Arthur Smith, the lawyer in charge for the Government at Local Board No. 125, at Public School No. 87 at Amsterdam Avenue and West Seventy-seventh Street. Up to Saturday Mr. Smith had taken ninety appeals for dependency alone and has asked for seventy additional blanks.

Mail coming to draft headquarters daily is full of information, much of it anonymous. "The men who have failed as to their age or fraudulently claimed exemption, Mr. Wood said, that if such information is sent to local boards the work will be greatly speeded.

Many women claiming to have been deserted by husbands are appearing at draft headquarters, and urging that the men in question be forced to serve.

TO FIGHT AGAINST BROTHERS

Plea of John Muller, Marriage Runner, Denied by Draft Board. John Muller of Hoboken, who until recently advertised his services in facilitating marriages, will have to give up that lucrative occupation to serve in the draft army. He claimed exemption on the ground that he had three brothers fighting in the German Army and he did not see why he should be forced to fight against them.

Brother four of the mother and father against son in our Civil War and you are no better than they were," was the ruling of Mayor Griffin, Chairman of the local board.

No General Exemption for Police and Firemen. WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Secretary Baker ruled today that the draft law cannot be construed to permit any general exemption of policemen or firemen. These classes may present claims for exemption on grounds of indispensability, but the Secretary of War feels that, as a rule, the man really indispensable will be above draft age.

Sheriff and Judge Arrested for Violation of Draft Law. RUSSELLVILLE, Ky., Aug. 20.—Sheriff James S. Taylor, a member of the Logan County exemption board, and County Judge J. W. Edwards were placed under arrest here today by Deputy United States Marshal B. V. Richardson on the charge of conspiring to violate provisions of the Selective Draft Law.

SELECTIVE DRAFT LAW DECLARED CONSTITUTIONAL

Decision Rendered by Georgia Federal Judge on an Appeal Made by Tom Watson.

(Special to The Evening World.) ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 20.—Judge Speer of the Southern District of Georgia upheld the selective army plan in a decision rendered Sunday night to the effect that the law is constitutional. The decision was the result of an appeal made by Thomas E. Watson as a test of the law. At a hearing here Saturday Watson, in the case of Albert Jones, a negro charged with violating the law, made a plea that the statute was in contravention of the insolvency servitude clause of the Federal Constitution. Watson submitted a brief and Earle Donaldson, United States District Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, made a brief argument in behalf of the Government. Judge Speer took the case under advisement without delay, rendering his decision last night.

PROMOTED IN THE 7TH. Howard H. Metelien, Once of Evening World Staff, Twice Advanced.

Howard H. Metelien, one of the men who left the staff of The Evening World to join the army, has been promoted twice in less than a month. He is a corporal now in Company B, Seventh Regiment, commanded by Capt. Charles H. Crane.

PERSHING PAYS SURPRISE VISIT TO ARMY IN FRANCE

Accompanied by Gen. Petain, French Commander in Chief, He Inspects Troops.

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 20.—Gen. Pershing believes his soldiers are "progressing satisfactorily" in their battle training, he said so today, following a surprise inspection visit of yesterday.

"I am entirely satisfied with what I have seen," the American commander asserted. "One thing that impressed me forcibly was the spirit of the men."

The first notice the American troops had of their commander's visit was an excited burst of bugle calls about dawn. The men tumbled hurriedly from their bunks and lined up at assembly. Then the word spread over the camp that Gen. Pershing and Gen. Petain had quietly slipped into the adjacent town during the night.

The United States troops stood at attention while a dust cloud grew bigger and bigger on the snake-like road heralding the approach of the Generals in automobiles. Then came the formal reception at camp headquarters and the inspection. The two Generals passed between long rows of the American troops, Gen. Petain being particularly interested in the sharpshooter and marksmanship medals worn by numerous American fighters. He stopped to examine them and to talk to the men thus decorated.

Petain and his staff wore the French horizon blue uniform, contrasting vividly with the dull colored "O. D." of the troops they were inspecting.

At one point in the inspection tour a little red-haired girl from the village came to the official party and presented Gen. Petain with a bouquet. The French commander stooped and kissed the child on both cheeks. Gen. Pershing hesitated and then did likewise.

The American fighters were pleased with their own showing at the inspection. It afforded them an opportunity to demonstrate that they had profited by previous criticisms and acquired more snappiness.

GIRLS STOLEN EVERY DAY IN NEW YORK, COCCHI SAID

Letter From Italy, Quoting Siayer of Ruth Cruger, Says He Hid at Priest's Home.

What purports to be the translation of a letter received by Mrs. Alfredo Cocchi, wife of the self-confessed slayer of Ruth Cruger, from her sister-in-law, Miss Margaret Kelly, has asked for the original letter, wishing to make his own translation. Investigation, he said, into the movements of Cocchi immediately following his flight, disprove his statement.

The letter also states, according to the translation, that when Baronocchi expressed surprise at the police failure to unearth the body of Miss Cruger, Cocchi told him that missing girls were common in New York.

"They steal girls every day over there," he said, "and the police never bother very much about them. The mounted police are good friends of mine and didn't make much of a fuss about searching my place. It is improbable that the police will discover the mystery of the murder soon, as they are such good friends of mine. I didn't make any attempt to conceal the body except to cover up the hole."

He concluded, his wife writes, said Cocchi told him he had come to Imola, Italy, to join the army; but investigation showed Baronocchi that Cocchi's class had not yet been called.

DRAFT OF UNEMPLOYED IS ON IN BALTIMORE

Twenty-six Had Reported as Idle Up to Noon—Law Makes Work Mandatory.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 20.—Maryland's registration for the labor draft became effective today. Twenty-six men in Baltimore had registered as unemployed up to noon.

The law will make work mandatory on every man between eighteen and fifty throughout the State. Men who refuse to work will be forcibly drafted into a labor army, and those who cannot find work will be assisted in obtaining employment.

The statute has the idle rich no less than the penniless hobo. Failure to register is punishable by a heavy fine.

Plenty of rich youths who lead an effortless existence were busy today seeking sincere jobs to satisfy the law.

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BELL'S FOR INDIGESTION. To Remove Indigestion in five minutes take 6 Bell's in a cup of hot water. Druggists refund money if it fails to stop the worst attack. BELL'S FOR INDIGESTION