

WAR MANIACS SUSPECTED OF FIRING SHIPS

Oklahoma Blaze Strengthens Belief that Partisans Plan Destruction.

DANIELS STARTS PROBE

Three Fires on American Battleships Have Occurred in Ten Days.

REPORTS ARE NOT REASSURING

Explanations Regarding Origin of Blaze Not Satisfactory—German Sympathizer Suspected.

The suspicion that even the United States navy is being subjected to hostile activities of partisans of the war in Europe was strengthened here yesterday when reports of the fire discovered Monday on board the battleship Oklahoma were received.

This is the third battleship on which fires have occurred within the last ten days. Officials found it impossible not to entertain the thought of the possibility that these fires are more than a coincidence and were of incendiary origin.

Secretary Daniels asked for a report from Capt. Kaemmerling, naval officer in charge of the inspection work on the Oklahoma, which is still in the hands of the New York Shipbuilding Company, at Camden, N. J., in regard to fire on board that vessel. Preliminary reports stated that the fire was caused by the carelessness of workmen, who are said to have left some matches near some temporary woodwork.

Defective Wiring Blamed. Regarding the fires on the battleships New Jersey and Alabama, official reports state that they were due to defects in electrical wiring. It is declared that these defects were the result of wear on insulations of wires leading into the turrets, which permitted the wires to become corroded, thus starting a blaze.

The fires, it is stated, were confined to the insulation on the wires, as there was nothing else about that could possibly burn. Naval officers assert that such fires are not at all unusual, and must always be expected where there are such vast networks of electrical wiring as on board battleships. The chief additional source of fires on board battleships is spontaneous combustion in scraps of oil or paint-soaked waste. It is pointed out that battleships are always very warm below decks, and that summer heat always increases the temperature in the compartments, making spontaneous combustion more likely. Spontaneous combustion in coal bunkers is also a frequent cause of fire, particularly in the summer time.

Explanations Not Satisfactory. With regard to the fire on the Oklahoma, however, no completely reassuring explanation has been received by the Navy Department as yet. The thought in the minds of many officials here is that a workman in the shipbuilding plant, possibly of German sympathies, had determined upon the project of destroying or injuring the giant war vessel soon to be turned over to the United States. It is felt that such attempts would be much more likely to meet with success in the case of a vessel in a private yard than on board a battleship already in commission and manned entirely by men of the naval service.

At private plants, workmen of all nationalities are employed, without any discrimination, whereas in the navy none but American citizens have been enlisted for many years. Furthermore, it is known that the discipline with regard to the movements of workmen about a ship in a private yard does not compare with that enforced on a battleship fully commissioned.

ASK MARRIAGE LICENSE CLERK FOR A DIVORCE

Couple Who Want to Separate After Living Together Five Years Tell Troubles to Col. Kroell.

"Well, what can I do for you?" Col. Kroell, marriage license clerk, asked a young couple who stood sheepishly before his desk in the City Hall yesterday. "We want a divorce," they chimed in unison. Col. Kroell looked dumbfounded. "Why, this is the marriage license bureau," he stammered.

"We know that," they replied; "but we've been married for five years, and we just can't get along together, so we want a divorce and would like to have it settled as quietly as possible."

Seeing they were in earnest and apparently not antagonistic toward each other, Col. Kroell tried to arbitrate their differences. "We've tried that," said the girl, "but we can't agree."

"Well, said Col. Kroell, "my business is to unite couples, not separate them, and since you can't agree, I guess you better see attorneys."

With a look of disappointment, the young couple walked side by side out of the building. Col. Kroell, sorry he had failed as a domestic diplomat, sighed and resumed his work.

THREE TAUBES FALL IN THAMES BATTLE

Twelve British Planes Said to Have Defeated Invading German Aviators.

London, July 20.—According to circumstantial reports in circulation today three big German aeroplanes of the Taube type were destroyed in a sky battle with twelve British aeroplanes off the mouth of the Thames River several days ago.

The German aviators had crossed the North Sea to raid the British coast, but they took so much time to maneuver that they were detected by English air patrols and chased. All three were shot down into the North Sea and the Germans were all killed.

GEN. SALAZAR ARRESTED AGAIN

Orocco Aid Who Escaped from Fort Wingate in Custody Once More.

El Paso, Tex., July 20.—Gen. Jose Inez Salazar, who escaped from custody at Fort Wingate, N. Mex., last November, has been rearrested near Columbus, N. Mex. United States Department of Justice officials left here this afternoon in automobiles to bring Salazar to El Paso.

Salazar was prominent during the time that Pascual Orocco was at the head of the revolutionary troops in the state of Chihuahua, being one of Orocco's right-hand men. He afterwards took the field as a commander of Huerta's army in Chihuahua. In the battle of Ojinaga his forces were defeated and he himself narrowly escaped capture by Gen. Villa.

He made his way to San Antonio, in Western Texas, and was arrested by United States authorities on the charge of conspiring to violate the neutrality laws. He was tried at Santa Fe, acquitted on the violation of neutrality charge, but was immediately rearrested by United States army officers and returned to Fort Wingate. Following his escape he started an independent revolution in the mountains of Western Chihuahua.

THIEF PHOTOGRAPHS HIMSELF

Springs Shutter as He Robs Studio, Leaves Evidence.

St. Louis, July 20.—By a clever arrangement of hidden cameras placed at different points in his studio George L. Hankammer, a photographer of Belleville, Ill., made a thief who had broken into his place photograph himself while committing his depredations. Mr. Hankammer today refused to show the photographs of the burglar, saying he believed that with a little persuasion the thief, whom he knows, would return the property. He said the burglar is well known in Belleville, and he was astonished when he developed the plates and ascertained the man's identity. The thief took money and other property valued at \$100.

The novel "thief photography" was originated by Mr. Hankammer after several robberies had been committed in Belleville within the last few weeks.

AMERICAN FORCED TO FIGHT

Naturalized Citizen Drafted in Austrian Army. Is Report.

Chicago, Mass., July 20.—A situation, the creation of which may have direct bearing on the affairs of the United States and those of Austria-Hungary, was today brought to light in the form of a postal card received by Michael Walczak, Chicago Falls, from his brother, Wally Walczak, a naturalized American citizen, who writes that he was forced to enlist in the army, supposedly the Austrian army, in defiance of his rights as an American.

NOTE TO BERLIN NEARLY READY

After Few Minor Changes, It Will Be Dispatched to Germany This Week.

MESSAGE FIRM IN TONE

Germany Is Warned U. S. Government Will Act as Circumstances Demand.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN. What was accepted as a final draft of this government's note to Germany was approved by the Cabinet yesterday and will be forwarded to the American Ambassador at Berlin before the week's end.

While not necessarily final in tone the note contains a paragraph which informs Germany with more or less definiteness that this government will act as circumstances demand and the protection of its rights and the maintenance of its rights or loss of more American lives through the activities of German submarines.

The Cabinet discussed frankly the definite policy which must be formulated in advance to be followed in the event of further German submarine atrocities causing loss of American lives in non-combatant ships on the high seas. It was agreed that severance of diplomatic relations would be the first step following such an occurrence.

Orduna Incident Sifted. These are the outstanding features of yesterday's march of events in the diplomatic discussions with Germany, according to the best information obtainable.

The Treasury Department is investigating the alleged attack upon the "Cunarder Orduna, bound for New York from Liverpool, early this month. Officially the attention of the Department of State was drawn to the incident through a letter from William O. Thompson, counsel for the Industrial Relations Commission, who was aboard at the time the alleged incident occurred.

As Mr. Thompson was allowed to have occurred, and did not reach the deck until the shelling commenced, he could not state that a torpedo was discharged, or that the shelling commenced without warning, or that the ship was not seeking to escape, when he finally arrived upon the scene. Hence the investigation.

The Orduna attack—whether proved or disproved—will play no part in the note determined upon yesterday. As stated yesterday morning, the note will be friendly in tone, but will be exultantly argumentative.

The Cabinet meeting lasted two hours. When the members left in a body their lips were tightly sealed on the injunction of the President, and the White House and Secretary Lansing sought to discourage forecasts.

The note, which President Wilson and Secretary Lansing had agreed upon Monday and furnished up prior to the Cabinet meeting yesterday, was accepted without suggestion of material change, and its dispatch, following a few minor changes by Secretary Lansing, was agreed upon.

EXTRA SESSION CONSIDERED

What policy or course of action by this government might be necessitated as a result of the position taken by the note was frankly and courageously discussed. It was agreed that only one logical course of action existed, and that this must be followed to the extent that subsequent events demanded.

The belief was expressed that the German government does not want to bring about a severance of diplomatic relations with this government; that the people of the United States do not want to suspend friendly relations, and that there is reason to hope that no act of the German admiralty will balk this common desire for a continuance of friendly relations. Nevertheless it was agreed that the United States must judge Germany by its acts rather than by expressions of friendship contained in its diplomatic communications.

DOCTOR LEAVES HORSE \$5,000.

Trust Fund to Care for Animal Provided in Will.

New York, July 20.—Dr. George P. Griffing, of Greenport, left an estate amounting to \$6,000, according to the petition for probate of the will filed today at Riverhead.

132 Turks Held After Germans Die

London, July 20.—An Athens dispatch to the Star says that 132 Turkish officers of the Second, Third and Fifth Corps have been arrested on a charge of conspiracy following the death of several German officers.

Paris "Finest" Off to War

Paris, July 20.—Two hundred additional Paris policemen have left to join the army at the front. This makes 500 already drafted for army service.

STORY OF DEATH TOLD BY BECKER

Sentenced to Die Week from Today, Appeals to Whitman.

HIS WIFE WITHOUT HOPE

Counsel to Make Application to Supreme Court Justice for New Trial.

New York, July 20.—Charles Becker's story—the story he would have told had he taken the stand and the tale on which he bases his hopes for a reprieve and a third trial—was made public tonight by his chief counsel, W. Bourke Cockran.

Becker's own statement, in his own handwriting and a supplementary statement—a confirmation to the main story—written by Mr. Cockran were both taken to Albany tonight by John R. Johnston, of Mr. Cockran's office. Tomorrow, upon Gov. Whitman's return to Albany, they will be placed before him. Basing their plea upon facts contained in Becker's story the condemned man's attorneys will make immediate application to a Supreme Court justice for a new trial. The request for a stay of execution will be made simultaneously. Becker is sentenced to die next Wednesday.

Becker makes complete denial of any knowledge or complicity in the murder of Herman Rosenthal. Furthermore, he denies any part or knowledge of police grafting which led up to the murder. And while he names "Big Tim" Sullivan, he acquits the late Tammany leader of any relation with the plot to kill Rosenthal.

Declares His Innocence

This is Charles Becker's declaration of innocence, his revolt against a felon's death or felon's life—addressed to the governor:

"If I am to die, I am as ready now to meet my fate as I have any reason to think that I ever will be. I do not desire a delay that can merely serve to prolong an agony which is already almost unendurable. There is but one service, counselor, anybody else can render me now, and that is aiding in finding evidence which will establish my innocence.

"Here, sir, let me say that I do not ask any indulgence at your hands. "If I have actually committed the crime of which I have been found guilty, no criminal ever went to execution who more thoroughly deserved the punishment inflicted upon him.

Would Vindicate His Name

"To a criminal so depraved I freely concede there could be neither warrant nor justification for clemency. Moreover, if I were given the choice between dying a felon's death and living a felon's life, I should certainly not be inclined to prefer the longer to the shorter agony. But I do revolt against being forced to bear, living or dead, the stigma of murder.

Story Plain Record

Additional information will accompany the application to Gov. Whitman for a reprieve. The governor was in Newport with Mrs. Whitman today. Before going to Albany Mr. Johnston called upon Becker in the death house. He obtained Becker's signature to the Cochran supplement.

Becker's statement is a colorless affair suggestive of police blotter literature. He makes no confession of grafting. He advances no theory about the death of Rosenthal except to recall that he once observed that it might have been the work of the Spanish Louie or the Jack Zelig crowd. He declares that "Big Tim" Sullivan was panic-stricken by Herman Rosenthal's threatened exposures. That "Big Tim" called him down town to tell him of the impending danger, and that Harry Applebaum, "Big Tim's" secretary, paid about \$200 to Mrs. Rosenthal to quiet her husband. He denounces "Jack" Rose bitterly, but does not mention the guinea except to refer to a meeting with them in the Beaux Arts Cafe where the question of bail for "Big Jack" Zelig was spoken of. And then he does not mention their names.

INVESTIGATING NEW BOMB

French Projectile Said to Be Most Powerful Known.

London, July 20.—An explosive bomb of greater power than anything hitherto used in the war is being investigated by the greatest scientists at France," stated Arthur Lynch in a speech in the House of Commons this afternoon.

Paris "Finest" Off to War

Paris, July 20.—Two hundred additional Paris policemen have left to join the army at the front. This makes 500 already drafted for army service.

Bulgar Neutrality Broken by Aero

Salonica, July 20.—Another German aeroplane has arrived at Constantinople after flying over Bulgaria. This is the sixth machine to violate Bulgarian neutrality.

WILSON MAY ACT IN ARMS STRIKE

Conference May Result in Request that President Act as Mediator.

FIGHTING "UNSEEN FOES"

Officials of A. F. of L. Say Mysterious Influence Is Working in Ranks.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 20.—President Wilson may be asked to mediate differences between the labor unions and the Remington Arms U. M. C. Company, it was stated on good authority here tonight.

Arrangements for this conference will be discussed at a meeting of labor leaders called by Samuel Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor, in Washington, tomorrow. It was rumored in union circles that eleventh-hour information of a startling nature has come to the hands of labor men.

J. J. Keppeler, vice president of the International Association of Machinists, left for New York late this afternoon. Thomas J. Savage, who is taking charge of the Bridgeport strike in Keppeler's absence, said that as the result of his trip the union program might be changed.

"The strike may be called off, though I do not think this probable," said Savage.

It was given out that Keppeler had been summoned to New York by powerful interests, who wished to settle the strike amicably. The names of the men with whom Keppeler is to confer and their place of conference was refused.

TALKED OF MILLIONS; TOOK \$4,000, HE SAYS

Alleged Flagler Widow Told of Funds in Washington Bank, Irate New Yorker Complains.

New York, July 20.—A white-haired and prepossessing woman of 50, handsomely dressed, who declared herself to be the third wife and widow of the late Henry M. Flagler, of Standard Oil fame, was arrested here tonight and locked up at police headquarters, charged with the theft of \$4,425.

The arrest was made as she was about to enter a taxicab at Fifty-eighth street and First avenue, on the complaint of Frank J. Mahoney, an operator for the New York Telephone Company.

UNSEEN Foe FOUGHT BY LABOR OFFICIALS

Officials of the American Federation of Labor admitted privately yesterday that organized labor is fighting a battle against unseen enemies working within its ranks, in the persons of German agents paid to stop manufacture and shipment of supplies for the Entente allies.

Of this fact, moreover, agents of the Department of Labor have informed Secretary Wilson and bureau chiefs in the department, although no official could be found yesterday willing to discuss the matter for publication.

In an effort to find out just where to begin in ferreting out this German influence, in order the better to understand what is necessary to a speedy adjustment of the public troubles which threaten to engulf the country in an industrial war, President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, has called a conference of the Bridgeport, Conn., strike leaders. Around this conference and all plans of Mr. Gompers and his lieutenants an air of secrecy has been thrown, in the hope that quiet action may forestall the activities of the German agents.

Secretary of Labor Wilson said last night that the department had no immediate intention of taking a hand in the Bridgeport trouble or any of the other disputes at this time.

The policy of the department has been, and is, not to take a hand until requested by the workmen, the employer, or the public immediately affected by the dispute," he declared. "So far no such request has been made, and the department therefore has not proffered its services toward arriving at a settlement."

MAYOR RHYMES IN PRISON

Paris, July 20.—Adolphe Max, burgo-master of Brussels, is whiling away his hours of imprisonment in Glais fortress by writing verses. To his daughter-in-law, who sent him a game of "patience," he replied in a poem which, put into prose, reads in part: "I've read the carols and see an end of our disasters approaching. I see women bending over the dead and resuscitating them with divine looks—women whose goodness has saved humanity in these days of sorrow."

RUSSIANS IN RETREAT ON WHOLE OF 1,000-MILE FRONT; TEUTONS DRAW IRON RING ABOUT WARSAW

Victorious Austro-German Armies at Some Points Are Less Than Twenty Miles from Polish Capital City.

RADOM OCCUPIED BY INVADERS

Railroad to Ivangorod in Control of Allied Cavalry—Imperial Household Guards of Czar Hurried South in Hope of Stemming Sweep.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. London, July 20.—The German and Austrian armies have been victorious all along the whole 1,000-mile Russian line. The city of Radom, capital of the province of that name and fifty-seven miles south of Warsaw, was occupied by the Austrian troops today.

Allied cavalry is astride the important railroad from Radom to Ivangorod. Lublin has either been captured or is on the verge of being evacuated, the Russian commander-in-chief having issued an order that, in case of retreat, the male population of the city is to attach itself to the end of the retreating army.

The Lublin-Chelm Railway, an important line which leads towards Warsaw is still believed to be held by Russians, but it is scarcely possible that they will be able to hold it for any number of hours.

Warsaw's fall seems certain. Nothing but a miracle can save the Polish capital from the Austro-German hordes that are surging forward upon it from north and south. It is not now a question of whether the city will fall, but of how soon. While hope is still entertained that the Russians will make a stand it is a faint hope. News of the evacuation of Warsaw, followed by the triumphant entry of the allied troops amid such scenes as attended the capture of Lemberg and Przemysl would come as no surprise at any time now to the British.

In the extreme north the army of Gen. von Bulow has taken Takum within thirty-eight miles of the important seaport of Riga. The fall of the latter city seems as certain as that of Warsaw. With Riga in the hands of the Germans it will afford them a most important naval base and permit them to sweep the gulf clear of mines.

Following the great semi-circle southward the Germans have met with great successes to the northeast of Warsaw. Here the army of Gen. von Gallwitz has captured the fortress of Ostrolenka, about twenty miles from Warsaw, and one of the great defenses that was confidently counted upon to block the German invasion.

CZAR LOSING DESPITE ADVANTAGE

All of this news is borne out by official reports from Berlin and Vienna, partly confirmed by Petrograd and none uncontradicted.

Despite the fact that the Austro-Germans are fighting in a marshy and woody country, which affords every advantage to the Russians, the Slav rout seems complete. Berlin reports that she is using fresh troops, the landsturm, many of whom have never been on the battle front before, and that they are distinguishing themselves with remarkable valor.

At the same time, reports from Petrograd admit that the St. Petersburg and Moscow imperial household troops, which have been held for an emergency, had been hurried to the front in the hope that they would be able to stem the tide.

GREAT BODIES OF PRISONERS TAKEN

Enormous numbers of prisoners are being taken by the Germans. Within the last two days, say the Berlin and Vienna reports, more than 50,000 men, 110 officers, and 22 machine guns have been taken. Of these, Gen. Gallwitz took 35,000 men in one day's fighting on the Narow.

With the victorious allies pursuing the Russians across the battlefields between the Vistula and the Bug rivers, great numbers of additional captives are being taken. Fifty officers and 3,000 men were taken in one lot yesterday and 3,000 in another lot were captured near Sokal, according to the Austrian official report.

The fact that so many Russian prisoners are being taken and that so few guns have been captured is taken as an indication that the Russian artillery cannot stand to British and her allies.

RUSSIAN STATEMENT ADMITS REVERSES

"On the Narow front there has been isolated artillery fighting and advance guard actions. Siege artillery from the fortress Novo-Georgievsk bombarded successfully the head of the German column on Sunday.

Between the Vistula and the Bug enemy forces yesterday carefully approached our new front. On the Bug their attacks in the Krylow-Sokal section continue. In the region of Sokal their lines were slightly extended on the right bank of the Bug.

WANT 400,000,000 "SMOKES."

Tobacco Company Will Make 10,000,000 Cigarettes Daily for Allies.

New York, July 20.—The P. Lorillard Tobacco Company, of Jersey City, announced today that it has signed a contract for 600,000,000 cigarettes to be manufactured and delivered on or before September 1. They are for the troops of the allies and the contracts will keep the factory busy night and day turning out 10,000,000 a day.

Blind Yacht Builder Dies. John S. Herreshoff, Designer of Many Winners, Dead at 77.