

DETECTIVE AMMUNITION CAUSED MONGOLIA DEATHS, NAVY THINKS

VICTIMS OF GUN LANDED AT PORT

Coffins Draped in Stars and Stripes—Vessel Returns with Flag Halfmasted.

(By the International News Service.) New York, May 21.—Two American Red Cross nurses, wounded on an errand of mercy, were killed and another seriously injured by splinters from a shell fired in target practice from the gun that was to protect their ship against U-boat attacks.

The accident, which was responsible for virtually the first American casualty in the war—those among the ranks of the Red Cross nurses bound on a mission of mercy—occurred at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The Mongolia, a former Pacific Mail liner, recently in the European trade, under the ownership of the International Mercantile Marine, was well at sea at the time. She has been doing little passenger-carrying recently, having been transferred into a cargo vessel.

The real reason for the Mongolia's return to port was not to bring home the bodies of the victims, but to replace her guns and ammunition.

It has been the practice among armed merchantmen to hold target practice most of the way across the ocean, so that the naval gunners will be in complete readiness to fire on a submarine should one appear.

The accident is the second which has occurred in like circumstances, although the other was not attended with fatalities.

The shell, according to the gunners, left the gun thoroughly intact when fired. It was seen to strike the water and disappeared. Then, as in a flash, splinters of the brass casing came hissing down.

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GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF PRICE OF COAL URGED IN HOUSE BY FEDERAL TRADE BOARD

Government regulation of the price and distribution of coal is urged by the Federal Trade Commission in a report made to the House of Representatives.

This recommendation, the commission says in a statement issued last night, is based on the result of public hearings held recently in Washington and Chicago which show that many operators are demanding prices which make their profits from 50 to 200 per cent over the cost of production.

"The remedies suggested by the commission," says the report, "fall into four general heads: improvement of transportation facilities, preservation of the labor supply, increase of storage facilities at points of consumption, and regulation by governmental authority of the distribution of coal."

"Pointing out the experience of most of the belligerent European nations which have had to meet a similar problem concerning coal, the commission suggested that under war-time conditions it may become the duty of the government of the United States not only to regulate the distribution of coal, but also to regulate the quantity of the product which the different classes of consumers shall be permitted to purchase, but also to establish on some equitable basis the prices to be paid by different classes of consumers."

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INTERIOR SHELLS, EXPERTS BELIEVE

Daniels Orders Thorough Investigation—Second Accident Aboard Liner.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels yesterday asked Congress to legislate the fleet "bone dry."

He asked for a law authorizing the President to prohibit any person from drinking or giving away intoxicating liquor to any naval officer or sailor in uniform.

Delving into the dusty-very dusty-ness of history, Secretary Daniels hunted for precedents.

Three foreign governments are said to be interested in the project and two have expressed a desire to place orders for the submarines.

Simon Lake to Build 10,000-Ton Submarines

Bridgewater, Conn., May 21.—Simon Lake, submarine inventor, has incorporated a \$10,000,000 company in Maine to build merchant submarines of from 5,000 to 10,000 tons, or twenty times the size of the Deutschland.

Mr. Lake said today that 100 undersea ships, co-operated fully, will undersea merchantmen could be turned out the first year and 500 the second.

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Shipping Plans Discussed

The head of the British mission plainly was in high spirits over the preparations already made to push American shipyard operations forward at maximum speed.

The details of President Wilson's \$750,000,000 shipping program were explained to him and warmly endorsed by Mr. Balfour.

Mr. Balfour and the shipping experts of the British mission went over with Gen. Goethals and Chairman Denman Great Britain's greatest food and supply manufacturer.

Mr. Balfour said that the American shipping schedule which contemplates the immediate diversion of an immense amount of coastwise tonnage into the trans-Atlantic lanes, was fully discussed.

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Working Out Plan

The Shipping Board is working out a comprehensive plan of control and operation of all American shipping for the service of the allies and will give due consideration to the recommendations made by Mr. Balfour.

With a view to diverting to England every available ton of shipping possible consistent with the needs of the other allied powers.

Mr. Balfour during the conference, supplied the Shipping Board with full figures showing Great Britain's total tonnage, new construction and the rate of depletion owing to the submarine destruction.

Government Ownership Of U. S. Distilleries

By GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

The conversion of grains into those forms of poison which, in a few instances, promote cheerfulness, but which in a great majority lead to disaster and unhappiness, is a business of which our descendants will view with skepticism.

Only a few distillers are to be constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, and high speed has been promised on the work.

The contracts for the mine sweepers, which are also to be available for work on destroyers, will be divided between eleven companies not now working on government contracts.

The end can be hurried by special legislation, but I believe that this legislation should be of a nature which would gradually cause an easing off of the liquor traffic rather than a sudden and total cessation.

It is popular to depict the liquor interests as being a business on human souls. It is forgotten that they have behind them the traditions of many thousand years during which the manufacture of liquor was considered as being a business on human happiness as the baking of bread. It is easy to conceive of a widow whose husband died of drink but who, if it were not for her small holdings of some distillery stock, would have no income to be widowed on.

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SHIPS WILL WIN WAR, SAYS ENVOY

Balfour Discusses Merchant Marine Plans with Government Officials.

Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, British foreign secretary, in conference yesterday with Gen. George W. Goethals and William Denman, chairman of the Shipping Board, declared that Great Britain's call for aid from America is for ships and still more ships.

"American merchant ships will be one of the most powerful forces in defeating Germany," Mr. Balfour said.

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10,000 HOMELESS AS BIG FIRES SWEEP 36 BLOCKS IN ATLANTA

Flames, Starting in Three Sections, Cause Five Million Dollars' Damage—Dynamite Checks Blaze After All-Day Fight.

Atlanta, May 21.—Ten thousand persons were made homeless tonight and thirty-six closely built city blocks are in ruins, the result of disastrous fires which swept for nine hours, first through the negro sections and then to the palatial residences in the fashionable Ponce de Leon section.

Dynamite was resorted to time and again to check the path of the flames and not until late tonight were the fires practically gotten under control.

National Guardsmen from Camp McPherson are on guard in the whole fire-swept region. Looters will be dealt with firmly. The loss is estimated by insurance men at \$5,000,000.

Although there were scores of minor injuries, no one was fatally hurt as the result of the fires.

The fire started—at least two of them—at 10:30 o'clock this morning. The fires were sweeping a block on East Fair street and in the west end. They were demanding the efforts of the city's entire apparatus.

Third Fire Breaks Out

The third alarm came in that a fire was raging in the block bounded by Decatur, Woodward, Edgewood and Edgewood avenues. It was impossible for the firemen in the other sections to reach the third fire in time to prevent its spreading.

All alarms summoned from other cities. In special trains and in fast automobiles firemen from nearby cities came to help the Atlanta fire-fighters. The flames, shooting skyward and catching on nearby buildings, began to get away from the firemen on Edgewood avenue. They jumped across the street to the sun-dried roofs of cottages. Every shingle that caught a spark burst into flames. The fire spread northward and eastward, aided by a high wind.

The firemen were also hampered by an odd trick of fate. The flames leaped over the houses on the edge of blocks and caught houses in the middle. This made the firemen's work more difficult, and helped the spread of the flames. Reaching north, the flames swept on Hilliard and Houston streets, licking their way through more negro dwellings toward the neighborhood where more substantial residences stood.

A path two blocks wide was cut across Auburn avenue, and onward it swept, traveling rapidly toward Irwin street.

Starts Near Shoe Factory

The fire started near the J. K. Orr shoe factory. The windows and doors of this great plant were quickly shattered, and the burning presented a fireproof bulk to the flames.

In the west end fire three homes were destroyed, three badly damaged, and several others marred by the flames.

In the Woodward avenue area, six houses were destroyed, and twenty-five others caught but were saved by the desperate efforts of the firemen.

The Edgewood avenue fire spread from the block bounded by Decatur, Woodward, Edgewood and Edgewood avenues, burning like cardboard the flimsy cottages of negro residents in that quarter. Streets were filled with frantic, screaming residents. Household goods were strewn about.

Mayer Candler led a force of citizens to the scene, helping the homeless people save what they could of their household effects. Automobiles, including the mayor's, were commandeered to carry on the rescue work.

The conflagration started in an old frame building formerly used as a contagious hospital, but later used as the city's warehouse for wooden sewer models. It was quickly destroyed. In the center of the block the flames spread to surrounding houses. They, too, were quickly doomed.

Telephone Wires Down

Reports of alarming fires came from various points to fire headquarters. They all proved false.

Telephone wires are out of commission. Street car traffic is paralyzed. The electric light wires are being cut for safety.

The work of relief is going on rapidly. Red Cross chapters and the Salvation Army organizations are already at work relieving the homeless. Shelter is being provided for them tonight. The great auditorium and other places are being filled with beds.

One unconfirmed report as to the origin of the blaze is that two boys set fire to a vacant two-story frame building at Irwin and Fort streets. A policeman saw young boys run out of the building, and a little later the structure was a flame. The boys escaped.

All Atlanta's industries and those of surrounding towns quickly responded to the call for aid. Supt. Smith, of the water works, had all the pumps working to furnish the needed water to throw on the fire. Automobile houses sent trucks to the scene and drivers with them to aid in removing household goods and the debris that were piled in the choked streets. Kirkwood sent its hose, which the Atlanta firemen connected with their own, thus drawing water from both Atlanta and Kirkwood.

Children Reported Burned

One report, unconfirmed, said that six negro children were burned to death in Fort street.

While endeavoring to do her "bit," little 11-year-old Nelson Vaughan was injured and had to be taken to the Grady Hospital for treatment. The little girl, with her mother, was rushing from her home, the mother carrying a baby, and Nelson carrying a grip and several packages. She fell and injured her back. The mother, faint, the baby was unhurt.

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COST OF FEEDING ARMY TRIPLE RATE IN 1918

It costs almost three times as much now to feed a soldier as it did in the Spanish-American war of 1898.

This was made known yesterday by the quartermaster's department of the army.

Then the cost was 12.81 cents a day for each man. Now it is 32 cents.

The ration is standard.

French Capture 800 Prisoners

Allied Troops Make Important Gains as Western Drive Enters Sixth Week.

(By the International News Service.) London, May 21.—The entente offensive in the west entered its sixth week today.

Both the British and French made new important gains in yesterday's fighting. On the whole those losses in ground are considered by the Berlin war office, though several lines of German trenches near the front were inflicted on the British, while on the left to the south of Laon, the Germans offset their Champagne loss by capturing trenches near the French.

The French took 800 prisoners in the last twenty-four hours. The British added a support trench to their advance of a mile front registered early yesterday.

"The enemy shells are being used in the official report were found to have been blown to pieces and to be piled high with dead."

The German statement tells of British storming of the trenches near Scarpe and Seneffe rivers having been "shot to pieces."

The French scored yesterday what the Paris war office describes as an "important and brilliant success." Immediately after having nipped in the bud a Teuton attempt at a massed counter-offensive, Petain's troops themselves launched an attack and carried by storm several lines of German trenches near the formidable Moreuvillers heights in the Champagne which dominate the whole region around.

The German statement, admitting the British gain near the southern extremity of the Wotan line, says a "completely demolished trench" was left in British hands, "according to our plan." The French successes in the Champagne are conceded, but indignantly, Berlin announced the "bagging" of fourteen entire airplanes.

Congressman's Wife Dies of Poisoning

Mrs. Hull Mistakes Bichloride of Mercury for Headache Tablets.

Mrs. Mary Louise Harris Hull, 46 years old, wife of Representative Harry P. Hull, of Williamsburg, Va., died in the Emergency Hospital last night at 6 o'clock from a dose of bichloride of mercury which she took by mistake for headache tablets.

Her husband, who was suffering from a severe headache at the time, Coroner Nevitt, after hearing the statements of Dr. Watkins, the ambulance physician who handled Mrs. Hull's case, and of Congressman Hull, who was with his wife before she died, Mrs. Hull's husband told him that she took the deadly poison by mistake, issued a certificate of death due to the accidental taking of the poison.

Mrs. Hull, the hospital physicians were told, had been in falling health for some time and recently had been suffering from headaches. She told the hospital physicians that she had taken eight of the small tablets of bichloride of mercury, thinking they were headache medicine which she had been using for that trouble.

Her fatal mistake had discovered a moment after she had swallowed the poison. She notified in time of the house and the Emergency ambulance was called. She was hurried to that institution where heroic treatment was administered, practically the entire house staff being called into the case in an effort to remove the poison solution from the stomach before it struck the vital parts. Mrs. Hull died two hours after swallowing the poison.

Mrs. Hull was a native of Iowa. Her parents were Welsh. She was married to Congressman Hull June 2, 1881. There is one child, Harris, 6 years old. The Hulls resided at 1836 Lamont street northwest. Mrs. Hull was of domestic tastes and while well known in the Congressional social set, devoted but a small portion of her time to society.

Munitions Steamer Sunk

New York, May 21.—Underwriters here today received a report that the Calchas, a 4,800-ton steamship of the Ocean Steamship Company, of Liverpool, had been torpedoed in the submarine zone with 10,000 tons of war munitions aboard.

Food Riots in Lisbon

Lisbon, May 21.—Food riots occurred here today. Mobs attacked stores.

Choate Leaves \$3,000,000

New York, May 21.—Mrs. Joseph Choate, widow of the late barrister and former Ambassador, and her children and grandchildren will inherit the bulk of his \$3,000,000 estate, according to the terms of his will filed for probate today.

Six charitable organizations in New York and Stockbridge, Mass., receive bequests of \$100,000.

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LES DARCY NEAR DEATH

Memphis, Tenn., May 21.—Les Darcy, Australian middle-weight pugilist, is barely alive, according to physicians attending him in a local hospital. His remarkable vitality alone is responsible for the continued burning of the meager spark of life. "He has shown such wonderful vitality that he will pull through yet."

Although prospects are not of the brightest, it is hoped by the new food administration to increase the normal exports to Europe. Under ordinary conditions the United States would send 400,000 bushels of grain to the allied countries. Canada would send 200,000,000. The requirements of the allies, because of reduced production, this year will be 1,000,000,000 bushels. That leaves a deficit of 400,000,000 bushels, or 40 per cent.

Hoover to Purchase and Distribute Food if Prices Soar and Supplies are Hoarded

If speculators or crop conditions force food prices too high, the government is prepared to buy and distribute to the public, and to control the supply of such supplies as otherwise would attain impossible prices. Such action is not contemplated at present, but if there are indications that any one commodity is being hoarded or cornered, the government expects to be vested with powers which will control inflation.

Legislation to this end is now before Congress or is being prepared. Chairman Lever, of the House Committee on Agriculture, conferred yesterday afternoon with Secretary of Agriculture Houston. With him was Senator Kenyon, member of the Committee on Agriculture.

It is understood that the Gore food bill in the Senate is far from satisfactory from the administration viewpoint, and that an effort is being made to co-ordinate the House and Senate bills.

That deals with increased production. The other House bill, which deals with the regulatory features of food control, has been revised several times, with the assistance of Herbert C.

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