

commendations to American government today meet approval of the administration.

It became known today that the allies want American troops in batches of several hundred to go at once to Europe aboard every ship that sails.

This will obviate necessity for concentration of enormous masses of men in one place and crippling of food and munitions ships to carry them.

Allies want mobilized national guard units which were at border, because they feel these men were equipped by their border work to go at once to western front and train within sound of big guns, so they will be tempered for battle in not longer than five weeks.

Definite settlement of this troop question is expected shortly.

All our European allies, it became known today, would be delighted—silent as they were about it until Joffre spoke—to have any kind of an American army at the front, even untrained men, to be trained there.

Speculation as to what troops would be sent should it be decided to send them opens a wide range of possibilities, some of which are:

To send 2,000 marines.

Or two battalions of regular army men.

Or a similar number of picked militia.

Or a force of men such as Roosevelt wants to lead.

Today's developments indicated clearly that there is strong pressure for sending an American expeditionary force abroad—and soon.

This pressure, as has been demonstrated at the Capitol during the past few days, comes from congress and from many sections of the country—as well as in the Joffre plea of yesterday.

These American troops, allies have assured this government, will not be fused with French, English, Russian, Indian or other troops, but will fight

as American units—under their own colors.

The allies' recommendations today were intended to wean this country away from idea that before American troops go abroad they must be trained here for months. They pointed to failure of the one and one-half years training system of Canada.

Canadian troops after this long course, went to Europe in large units and while considered ready to fight, had to go through the five weeks intensive training within sound of the guns just the same.

### JACKIES PERISH WHEN U-BOAT SINKS AMERICAN LINER

London, April 30.—America may have lost her first fighting forces in the war with Germany in the torpedoing of the American armed oil tanker Vacuum Saturday.

Lieut. Thomas, U. S. N., in command of the gun crew, and nine of his men were among missing reported today. Capt. Harris and 17 of the boat crew also unaccounted for.

Three naval gunners were among those saved. Those rescued included chief mate and 17 men in all.

Message telling of torpedoing read: "Vacuum torpedoed 28th, 140 miles west of Barra. No. 1 lifeboat with captain and others drowned. No. 2, with chief officer and 16 others, saved."

New York.—The Vacuum was formerly known as the Baymon. At the company's offices it was stated she had discharged her cargo at Liverpool and was homeward bound when attacked.

The Vacuum was of 1,992 tons. She carried two guns, forward and aft, in charge of a naval gun crew. The Vacuum had a crew of 34. She has been carrying oil to Europe since 1914.

Mayor Thompson refused to hand out any pro-German talk today. Said he had not been summoned by U. S. officials and didn't expect to be.