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Block

### AMERICAN VESSEL BATTERS GERMAN UP U-BOAT

Submarine's Torpedo Fails to Explode  
and Hot Encounter With Ger-  
mans Follow

#### HER PERISCOPE SHOT AWAY

An Atlantic Port, June 22.—An American steamer which arrived here in ballast today from a British port, had a thrilling encounter on June 4 with a German submarine after the enemy boat had fired a torpedo at her which hit but failed to explode. The submarine was badly damaged by the fire of the steamer's gun crew and disappeared after her periscope was shot away.

The steamer captain saw the wake of the submarine's torpedo and after the impact ordered his crews to the boats. The submarine submerged, evidently believing that the shots had done the intended work. The captain, the first and second officers and boat-

swain mates of the gun crew remained aboard the steamer.

When the torpedo was seen to have failed to score the crew was ordered back from the boats and when the submarine reappeared the bluejackets went to the four-inch guns fore and aft and fired rapidly. The submarine, according to the captain, came head on full speed and then stopped, which interfered with the range of the American gunners.

When 600 yards from the steamer, the captain said, one of the shells from the steamer hit the submarine and she submerged. As she came up a second shot, tore away her periscope and another exploded on her turtle back.

The captain said he remained in the vicinity of the enemy craft for two hours, but she failed to reappear. He said he was not certain that the submarine was sunk, but was certain that her periscope was shot away and her deck marked.

Story by "Sparks."

In a story written by the wireless operator on the steamer, he said:

"We discharged our cargo at Liver-

pool and sailed June 1. We were running at nights without lights.

"We saw a submarine June 4. One British ship sent a signal of distress, which we picked up. She reported she was attacked by a submarine. The British ship was exchanging shots with the submarine for about a half hour. When they reported by wireless the submarine had submerged.

"I heard the S. O. S. from another British vessel. She reported she was being attacked by a submarine. She was fighting at close range. After twenty minutes of hard fighting the submarine again submerged and the steamer wirelessed she was not damaged.

"We could plainly see the shells from these British vessels as they dropped, but could not see the submarines.

"We were on a zigzag course and making full speed when the lookout sighted an empty life boat.

"About twenty minutes later one of the gunners sighted a torpedo headed straight for us. He shouted: 'Here she comes. Torpedo port side.'

"The chief officer, who was on the

bridge, shouted to the quartermaster, 'Hard starboard.' We swung off. The torpedo struck us on the port side a glancing blow amidships right near the engine room. Our ship was empty and we all thought the torpedo had exploded from the terrific noise. The ship's whistle blew short and successive blasts, which was signal to abandon ship and man the life boats.

"I then sent out a signal of distress which was picked up by the second British steamer previously attacked. After the life boats had been launched the captain, who had remained on the ship, found the torpedo had failed to explode. All hands were then ordered back on ship. We were lying perfectly still for at least an hour.

"When the commander of the submarine saw our crew climbing up on deck he gave up his chase for two other British merchant ships and started for us again. The submarine was about 2,000 yards off our starboard beam. The gun crews scrambling to the deck and the chief gunner gave them their ranges from the bridge.

"When about 600 yards off our star-

board quarter a shell from our forward gun hit her and blew away her periscope. Another shot from our forward gun fell right on top of her. There was a shower of black specks, which rose high in the air, followed by a great commotion, bubbles of water and a light blue smoke arising from the stern of the U-boat where a second before had been the eyes of our enemy. Nineteen shots in all were fired.

"Our crew, which was lined up against the starboard rail watching the battle, gave a hearty American cheer when the submarine disappeared."

#### FOUND DEAD IN ROOM

Philadelphia, June 24.—A couple who yesterday registered at a prominent hotel as Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Alexander, were found dead in their room tonight. The man, who is said to have been an army officer, had died from heart failure, while the woman shot herself with an army pistol.

ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES.

### URGE SELECTIVE DRAFT TO GET ARMY DOCTORS

Volunteer System Not Dependable,  
New Yorkers Tell Defence  
Medical Board.

Washington, June 24.—Application of a selective draft to provide physicians and surgeons for the war armies was urged upon the defense council's general medical board today by officers of the medical section of the New York national defense committee.

Major Karl Connell, heading the New Yorkers, submitted data to prove that out of 140,000 doctors in the United States less than one-half are available or desirable for military service. He said the volunteer system failed to protect local medical needs and would result in confusion, waste and failure.

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