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The Daily Gate City

and Constitution-Democrat.

THE WEATHER
Slightly cooler. Fair. Local temp—7 p. m. 95; 7 a. m. 80.

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KEOKUK, IOWA, MONDAY, JULY 31, 1916

EIGHT PAGES.

BLOW UP HEARD IN FIVE STATES

EXPLOSION SHOOK CITY VIOLENTLY

Followed by Enormous Fire on Black Tom Island With Loss of Millions.

DEATH LIST IS UNKNOWN

Over One Hundred People Injured, Not Including Those Hit by Glass Many Miles Away.

[By J. P. Yoder, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, July 31.—Mystery early today still beclouded the real cause of the explosion and fire which early Sunday morning occurred on Black Tom Island. Whether a fire, starting on the barge loaded with nitro-cellulose or ignition of four freight cars loaded with high explosives, was the cause, no one could tell today.

Perhaps the exact cause never will be known. The condition of the area of devastation made it impossible today to get a clear picture of the damage. At 8 o'clock flames were still flaring high from wreckage of railroad cars and warehouses on Black Tom, which is really a peninsula. At that hour shrapnel and three-inch shells buried deep in the ruins were being hurled occasionally by the heat, into a gusty pop-pop that kept workmen and crowds of spectators at respectful distances.

Dead, missing and injured lists admittedly were mere estimates up to noon today. The very nature and extent of the blast and fire made impossible, this early, anything like definite compilation of life loss. Only a visit to the scene can make one realize how difficult it will be even after several days of search of ruins and records to tell the exact loss.

Up to 8 o'clock, only two known dead were marked down. Twenty-five others are missing and 116 are known to have been injured. This list of injured doesn't include those hurt miles away from the scene by falling glass.

Four separate investigations started today by the railroad companies, Jersey City authorities, the state and the federal government. Agents of each were on the scene and will remain until they go into every phase of the case.

Estimates of the property damage run all the way from \$20,000,000 to \$50,000,000. The consensus of opinion among Jersey City officials was that the latter figure would be nearer correct after complete tabulation had been made of thousands upon thousands of shattered windows and other similar damage done in Jersey City, Brooklyn, Manhattan and a dozen surrounding towns, cities and hamlets.

This one item of smashed glass alone incidentally has been estimated at more than a million and a quarter dollars. Only the facts that the two major explosions occurred at the hour they did—2:28 and 2:35 a. m.—and where they did, undoubtedly prevented far greater loss of life and vastly more property damage. Black Tom is situated at the bulging end of a long peninsula that juts about three miles off Communipaw, slightly south of Jersey City and south of Ellis Island and the small point of land in New York harbor on which the statue of Liberty stands. Had the explosion occurred on the mainland of either the New York or Jersey coasts, the shock

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DESCRIPTION OF EXPLOSION

Man Awakened by First Blast Was Near at Hand When the Second One Came.

PEOPLE IN THE STREETS

Sleepers Were Awakened by What They Thought at First Was an Earthquake.

[By Herbert A. DeLima, Written for the United Press.]

JERSEY CITY, N. J., July 31.—I was literally jarred from my bed when the first of the two titanic blasts occurred on Black Tom peninsula Sunday morning. My first drowsy thought was that it was an earthquake. After getting to within a few feet of the scene of the explosions a few minutes later and viewing the utter devastation wrought, I wondered how some smaller buildings ever kept from crumbling under the impact of that blast that made itself felt in five states—New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut.

Buildings shivered like a giant ship smashed by mountainous seas. Glass was jarred from windows, like water drops are shaken off by a big dog. Crockery rattled. Thousands dashed to the streets in night clothes and many of them stayed there for hours after the second detonation, hugging open spaces to be as far away as possible from buildings. Many clocks and watches stopped at 2:28 and, as if afterwards learned, elevators and light plants throughout the city, lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, simply stopped dead still for the second that the vibration continued. Doors cracked inward and roofs were ripped off. Brick chimneys toppled, adding to the pandemonium and din as they struck tin or tile roofs.

Then everyone realized it could not be an earthquake because of the lightning-like flashes followed by flames that seemed to shoot two hundred yards into the air from the direction of Communipaw. It was so light several roosters nearby began crowing.

I telephoned the United Press in New York and ten minutes later was as near the scene as I could get. Soon after that, ambulances came carrying calm looking, white capped nurses and policemen. Then came the fire apparatus. Suddenly the entire world seemed to split open. I didn't really hear anything. My eardrums merely seemed to collapse. A pillar of flame shot skyward. Upward and surrounding the fire column rolled a circle of peculiar colored smoke twenty feet in diameter. As it touched the top of the flame, it umbrellated out until it formed a mushroom shape and then came another crash of sound. I felt a sensation, much magnified, as one gets when an elevator dips suddenly ten or fifteen stories.

Then came a whistling and whirring overhead. It was shrapnel and I ducked to lie face downward until the worst of it seemed to stop. It later developed this bombardment came from shrapnel and shell loaded freight cars some distance from the end of the peninsula.

By this time there were countless pat-pat-pat, bang, smash, explosions from out in the harbor. Explosives on careening barges were letting go. The nurses, methodically went about one about, methodically went about receiving a number of injured the policemen were bringing out. When day came, the ground for miles about reminded me of descriptions the war correspondents have given of shell-pierced earth about a foot. The only difference was absence here and there of great pieces of heat colored steel, some ten or fifteen pounds in weight, looking like some Hercules had twisted the ends in opposite directions. Several such bars were found two or three miles away from the peninsula.

Four Were Instantly Killed When Train Hit Automobile

Iowa Farmer's Family Almost Completely Wiped Out in Accident at Railway Crossing

MUSCATINE, Iowa, July 31.—Four were killed instantly and two others seriously injured when an automobile in which they were riding was struck by a Milwaukee freight train at Stanwood, Iowa, late yesterday. The dead are: MR. AND MRS. IRA MILLER, VELMA, their seventeen year old daughter, OLARENCE FINKLEY, an employe on the Miller farm at Stanwood. The eleven year old twin girls of the Millers, are now in a Cedar Rapids hospital in a critical condition.

TWO ARE KILLED BY MEXICANS

U. S. Cavalry Surprised Band of Outlaws and Chased Them to the Border.

FIVE GREASERS KILLED

Running Fight in Which Two Hundred Shots Were Exchanged by the Men.

EL PASO, Texas, July 31.—Three troopers of the Eighth U. S. cavalry were killed in a running fight with Mexican bandits near Fort Hancock early today. The detachment of American cavalry killed five of the Mexicans. None of the dead have yet been identified. One American cavalryman was wounded.

The bandits were surprised by the cavalry patrol and immediately fled toward the Mexican line. About two hundred shots were exchanged. It is supposed that the bandits were Villistas on their way to raid some American ranch. Three other troops of the Eighth cavalry were rushed from El Paso to Fort Hancock by special train. Their instructions were to follow the bandits trail into Mexico if necessary or expedient.

Only Two Killed. EL PASO, Texas, July 31.—Two Americans were killed in a clash between a detachment of troop F, Eighth United States cavalry and a party of Mexican bandits at the Sanchez ranch, one and a half miles below Fort Hancock, Texas, at 5:30 a. m. today.

Five of the Mexicans, nearly half of the band, were killed in the running fight that followed the bandit's resistance to arrest. Three troops of cavalry ordered from Fort Bliss to pursue the escaped bandits were afterward ordered held back. Pursuit of the bandits across the line into Mexico was contemplated for a time.

Robert Wood, a customs inspector with the cavalry patrol, was one of the first to be killed in the engagement. Private John J. Twomey also was killed and Sergeant Louis Thompson was wounded. The accuracy of the cavalry took heavy toll among the bandits and pursuit was abandoned after the remainder of the bandits disappeared in the brush. Capt. H. B. Cushing of the Eighth Massachusetts infantry made official report of the fight to General Bell at Fort Bliss. Cushing is ranking officer in the Fort Hancock district. However, no militia participated in the clash.

Slocum Not Blamed.

WASHINGTON, July 31.—No stigma should be attached to Colonel Herbert J. Slocum, Thirteenth cavalry, for failure to guard Columbus, N. M., against the Villa raid that precipitated the present Mexican trouble.

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STILL IN PORT ON THIS SIDE

German Submarine Deutschland Appears Afraid to Make Start for Home.

FRIGHTENED BY RUMORS

Spies Have Been Scattered All Along the Line Because of Rumors of English Plot.

[By Carl D. Groat, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

BALTIMORE, Md., July 31.—Official and unofficial spies were scattered down the Patapsco today by the Germans to protect the sub-sea freighter Deutschland against the suspected machinations of the British.

This counter-movement was taken in view of the United States' government refusal to convoy the submarine to the Capes. The fact that one of the allied watch ships had disappeared from the harbor without contact only served to heighten the fear of the Germans. Promoters feared she will lurk down the bay to ram the submarine. Hints that the Deutschland might be rammed "accidentally" have become facts to the overwrought Germans.

Preparing to Leave.

BALTIMORE, Md., July 31.—At 1:30 the tug, Thomas F. Timmins started its engines and began clearing away the barges obstructing the passage of the German super-submarine Deutschland, now smuggling at the foot of Andre street. There is every indication of immediate departure. The Bremen will reach the three mile limit tonight and then or early tomorrow morning, the Deutschland will go down the bay.

This prediction was made by a member of the big U boat's crew in saying "ant widersen," to a friend on Locust Point today.

FOREST FIRE WAS TERRIFIC

So Far There Have Been 184 Lives Reported Lost.

NORTH BAY, Ont., July 31.—One hundred and eighty-four lives have so far been reported lost in the greatest forest fire northern Ontario has ever suffered. More than two million dollars property damage has been done. The fire district forms a strip of territory shaped like the letter J, with Bourkes forming the end of the base; Cochran the junction with the cross bar and Hurst and Iroquois at other end. The fire broke out at 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon and was reported simultaneously at several points forming a semi-circle from Bourkes to Hurst, over a hundred mile frontage.

Driven by a forty mile wind from the south, the flames rolled over the countryside just like a heavy thunderstorm coming up ahead of a hurricane and with everything as dry as

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REPULSING THE ENEMY EVERYWHERE

German War Office Reports That Kaiser's Troops Are Successful at All Points.

OTHER SIDE DISAGREES

France Claims Victory in Numerous Engagements, as Does Also England and Russia.

BERLIN, July 31.—Anglo-French attacks through the morning along the front from Longueval to the Somme were everywhere repulsed with sanguinary losses, according to the war office statement today. In the eastern fighting zone, also, the war office declared, Russian attacks had been repulsed. "Northwest and west of Buczacz," the statement asserted, "the enemy penetrated our first line, but were driven back. All attacks were victoriously repulsed."

Violent Combats.

PARIS, July 31.—French troops brilliantly retrieved a temporary German footing obtained around Moncaux, according to today's communique. The enemy had taken a slight hold there, but French counter attacks drove them out and back. The official statement detailed "numerous" German counter attacks against Helms wood and extremely violent combats in that neighborhood in which the Germans were repulsed. "In the course of these attacks," the statement asserted, "our left bank batteries enfiladed the enemy, causing heavy losses to them. Around Verdun, German attacks on Hill 304 were checked by French fire. In the region southwest of Fleury, the French progressed further. A German grenade attack west of Vaux-Chapier was unsuccessful."

Between Pozieres and Logueval, the report said, combats were progressing in favor of the Teuton army. In this fighting 781 prisoners and thirteen machine guns were captured. South of the Somme, the statement said, a violent artillery combat was continuing. Describing the Russian fighting, the war office said between Witoniez and Turgo southwards and also on both sides of the Lips, the Russians were again repulsed with heavy losses. Near Zarecze, the Muscovite troops penetrated, but a counter attack drove them back. In this sector 1,589 prisoners were taken yesterday.

Forward Again.

PETROGRAD, July 31.—After fierce fighting around Brody, the Russian forces have thrust their way forward again, this time taking ground from the Teutons up to the rivers Graberki and Seret. The war office statement today made this announcement. The war office asserted that in the region of the Stockob river, the Russian forces were fighting their way

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REASONS FOR JOINING MILITIA

Why Some of the Members of Companies at the Border, Are Carrying Guns.

SOME SONS OF VETERANS

Many of the Boys in Blue Today Are Sons of Union and Confederate Soldiers.

[By William G. Shepherd, United Press Correspondent, Texas, July 31.—Men belong to European armies in order to fight for their countries.

After seeing these armies and coming to see the American armies on the Rio Grande, the question arises, "why have American men joined the militia?" This question asked, hit or miss, in an automobile tour of the lower Rio Grande valley yesterday, brought these answers:

Capt. Elmer McDovitt, of Duluth, Co. A, Third Minnesota, all-American guard from Yale in 1913: "When the European war began, I realized that American young men didn't know anything about fighting, and I felt it was my duty to learn."

S. G. White, of Dallas, artificer, Second Texas: "My father and brother were murdered by Mexicans and I joined to fight."

A. A. Nofel, of Minneapolis, private, Company I, Second Minnesota, former rug merchant of Syria: "I went to the University of Minnesota for an education, but when I found military training was compulsory in the university I made up my mind I might as well join the militia and get a full military training."

Colonel Robert McCormick, of Chicago: "After seeing the war in Europe, I decided that Americans ought to learn how to protect themselves."

A. W. Dahle, bugler, Co. D, First Minnesota: "I learned to be a bugler in the boy scouts and when the trouble with Mexico arose, I joined the militia to go into Mexico."

Captain G. A. N. Anderson of Fargo, Co. B, First North Dakota: "Four years ago there was a little scare in Mexico over the Madero troubles, and after reading the papers one evening I decided we would have trouble with Mexico, so I went down to the army before bed time and enlisted."

R. H. Simms, of Fairbault, sergeant-major, Second Minnesota: "I always wanted to go to a gymnasium and there wasn't any Y. M. C. A. in our town so they built an armory with a gym. I joined the militia."

Captain Glen Laffer, of Washington, Iowa, Troop A, First Iowa cavalry: "My grandfather was killed in the war of 1812, and my father and five uncles were in the civil war. My brother was in the Spanish war and I joined because it was my turn."

Lieut. Forest Lee Lowery, of Dallas, Co. B, Second Texas: "My two grandfathers fought on the confederate side, one under Forest and one under Lee. I was named for those two generals. My folks fought in every American war up to the present time and I want to fight in this one—if there is going to be one."

Col. W. I. T. Mollison of Fairbault, Second Minn.: "My father was in the union army in the charge at Gettysburg with the First Minnesota and when I was sixteen years old he took me by the nape of the neck, led me to the military recruiting office and made me join. It was purely compulsory and the operation frightened me because the captain lifted me off my feet so my head would touch the height bar, as I was too short."

In the last seventeen months, the juvenile court of St. Joe, Mo., investigated 4,784 cases, most of them settled out of court.

Tired of Life. CHICAGO, July 31.—Mrs. Esther May, 23, took poison at her home and is in a critical condition at a hospital. In a note she said she was tired of life. Another note was addressed to W. S. Carter, 1221 Jefferson Bldg., Peoria. Its contents were not made public.

Heat Fatal to Two. ELGIN, Ill., July 31.—Heat killed two in Elgin just before relief came today. The victims were Henry Runge and an unidentified man.

Battle in the Sky. LONDON, July 31.—Combat between a British aeroplane and a Zeppelin thirty miles off the east coast of Great Britain was reported in an admiralty statement today. The aeroplane pilot, it was related, fired more than two trays of ammunition at the German dirigible before he was temporarily incapacitated by a portion of his gun flying off and stunning him. When the pilot recovered consciousness, the Zeppelin had disappeared.

Statute of Liberty is Slightly Damaged by the Explosion.

NEW YORK, July 31.—Miss Liberty's gown was torn a little and some of her skin punctured by shrapnel bullets—but the famous statue on Bedloe island today was found to be surprisingly free from injury, con-

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COOLER WEATHER HERE NOW

An End Comes to the Boiling, Blistering Days for the Middle West.

YESTERDAY WAS TORRID

Chicago Has 264 Deaths From the Heat During the Past Four Days.

CHICAGO, July 31.—Cooler weather was in sight for the middle west today, after a day of record heat. A cool wave, according to the weather forecaster, will hit this section tonight. Today it will be cooler than yesterday, but still hot.

Death's toll in Chicago yesterday from the hot wave was 117. This makes a total of 264 deaths in Chicago in the last four days as a result of the heat. Ninety-nine babies have died since Friday night. The number of deaths in other cities throughout the middle west as a result of the heat were not obtainable. It was estimated, however, that they would add at least 150 to the list. Milwaukee alone reported twenty-two dead for yesterday. Sunday was Milwaukee's hottest day in forty-five years. It was 102 degrees by the government thermometer. Heat records for Chicago were smashed as far back as 1901. A temperature of 101 was recorded. In July, 1901, the mercury registered 102 degrees.

So great was the jam at bathing beaches here that police reserves were called to clear the streets leading to the beaches.

Gary, Indiana, was the hottest place on the map with 116. Three died from the heat there. It was comparatively cool along the Mexican border, El Paso and San Antonio registering 88.

East Will Get Hot. WASHINGTON, July 31.—Cool high winds sweeping out of the northwest will bring relief from the hot wave to the lake region and the country between the lakes and the Rockies, the weather bureau said today.

The east is to get its share of warm weather at once. It warmed up today and will get warmer, it was said. That prediction held good for the east, south, Ohio valley and extreme west. In the Rockies it is to be normal.

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BIG BUSH FIRE RAGES WITH LIVES IN DANGER

Millions of Dollars Worth of Timber Destroyed and Towns Wiped Out.

TORONTO, Ont., July 31.—The big forest fire in the history of Ontario province, was still raging today. Loss of 200 lives is feared.

Already the fire has covered much of the territory from Cochrane to

Hearst. Timber, valued at millions of dollars, is believed to have been consumed. A dozen towns and villages are in the fire zone. Telegraphic communication has been destroyed and it is not known whether they were destroyed or not. Fate of two hundred settlers in the fire district is unknown.

The towns of Cochrane and Matheson are reported to have been destroyed. Between them lie the settlements of Iroquois Falls, Huskha, Watahbang and Kelson—all in the district reported swept by the flames.

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