

AMERICAN WARSHIP SUNK; SIXTY LOST

Storm Adds to Suffering in Stricken City; To Start Inquiry at Once

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AMERICAN DESTROYER TORPEDOED IN WAR ZONE

The Jacob Jones Lost While on Patrol Duty in Foreign Waters, the Navy Department Announces.

Thirty-seven Survivors Picked Up, Indicating the Loss of About Sixty Men—Commanded by Brother of Mrs. Josephus Daniels.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The American destroyer Jacob Jones was sunk by a submarine at 8 o'clock Thursday night while patrolling foreign waters and only 37 survivors have been picked up, the navy department announced this afternoon.

This would indicate that about 60 men were lost, although others may be safe.

The Jones was commanded by Lieutenant Commander David Worth Bagley, brother of Mrs. Josephus Daniels, the wife of the secretary of the navy.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. The official announcement, made through the committee on public information, said:

"The American destroyer Jacob Jones was torpedoed and sunk Thursday, Dec. 6, at 8 p. m., while on patrol duty in foreign waters.

"Early reports indicate that 37 survivors had been picked up so far. They were taken off life rafts.

LIST OF SURVIVORS. The names of ten survivors have been received up to this time. They are:

"Lieutenant (J. G.) John Krichards. "Ensign Nelson N. Gates. "Assistant Surgeon L. L. Abamkiewicz.

"Charles E. Pierce, fireman, first class. "Timothy Edward Twomey, seaman. "John C. Johnson, seaman. "Henry A. Stutzke, chief machinist's mate.

"Edward F. Grady, fireman, second class. "John J. Mulvaney, seaman. "Byron Myron Flood, seaman.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE. The Jacob Jones had previously distinguished herself in October when the P. & O. steamer Orama converted into an auxiliary cruiser, was torpedoed on Oct. 17.

The Jones saved 305 of the 348 persons aboard at that time.

The official statement in connection with the Orama incident said: "The Jones did excellent work in October upon the occasion of the torpedoing of the steamer Orama.

"At 5 p. m., Oct. 19, the Orama, a former P. & O. vessel, converted into an auxiliary cruiser, was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

PART OF CONVOY. The Orama at the time was part of a convoy of merchant vessels under escort of American destroyers of which the Jacob Jones was one.

"The submarine's periscope was seen after the explosion. She was immediately attacked and put out of action. The Jacob Jones and another destroyer were detailed to remain by the Orama to save life.

"It was dark when the Orama began to settle and the crew abandoned her. The Jacob Jones picked up in the dark 305 of the 348 persons on board.

"All on board the Orama were saved by these two vessels."

SECOND WARSHIP SUNK. This makes the second American warship sunk by German torpedoes since the United States entered the war. The indicated loss of life in today's disaster is the largest of any American loss at sea except the submarine of the army transport Anitiles, which carried 67 men down.

The small patrol boat Alcedo was torpedoed Nov. 5 with a loss of 11 of the crew.

Two weeks later the small destroyer Chansey sank, following a collision, 11 of those aboard perishing.

One other destroyer, the Cassin, was damaged by a German torpedo which cost two lives and wounded five other men.

Secretary Daniels, always deeply affected by any disaster to navy craft,

RUMORED CZAR NICHOLAS FREE; NOT CONFIRMED

Report Dethroned Monarch Has Escaped From Place of Confinement Sent to the State Department.

Washington, Dec. 8.—That Czar Nicholas had escaped from his place of confinement in Siberia was the rumor the American consul at Tiflis reported to the state department today.

The department's advice gave no details, merely reporting a rumor at Tiflis to the effect that the czar had escaped.

Nicholas, following his dethronement by the revolution this spring, was spirited out of Petrograd to the small prison village of Tobolsk in Siberia.

He was reported to have been housed there under guard, accompanied by his wife and children. Their home was set up in simplicity that contrasted sharply with their former splendor, in a large house in Tobolsk.

WORK OF MONARCHISTS? Recently a statement purported to have been made by the deposed czar through a neighboring monkey disclaimed any intention of seeking to regain the throne. But officials here have never ceased to speculate on the possibility that out of the present chaos in Russia the monarchists might not attempt to liberate the czar.

Certain units in the army are still believed to be loyal to him or amenable to the influence of their officers who might be brought to lead a monarchist counter revolution. There is nothing to confirm the rumor of the escape, however.

MIDDLE WESTERN STATES IN GRASP OF SEVERE COLD WAVE

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The middle western and central plain states are experiencing zero weather today. From the Alleghenies to beyond Kansas and south into Oklahoma and Texas the mercury is steadily dropping. Points in northern Wisconsin have reached the 20 below mark. Chicago shivers at 6 above with a promise of 5 below by morning.

A heavy wind and snowstorm is sweeping over Indiana. Traffic in Indianapolis is demoralized. Trains in central Indiana have been delayed for hours.

Storm warnings were hoisted on the lakes and a severe storm is predicted to sweep all the lakes except Superior today. No bats, are venturing from Milwaukee today.

Unprotected cattle in Kansas suffered intensely when the temperature dropped to 10 and 12 below. St. Louis with temperature near zero, reports snowstorm which raged most of the night and tied up traffic today. Telephone and telegraph communication in Oklahoma has been hampered by a 50-mile norther which brought snow, rain and hail as far south as Oklahoma City.

Weather officials here say the storm has spent itself and that temperatures, except in and around Chicago will not go much lower.

WOMEN CONDUCTORS HAVE COME TO STAY

New York, Dec. 8.—Forty conductor-ettes will be ringing up fares for Broadway street cars by tomorrow. The company announced today after a brief test that the women conductors had come to stay. After 24 hours of service the few pioneers tried out yesterday and last night proved they were every bit the equal of male conductors. From now on they will get man's pay and as near a man's uniform as possible with a skirt.

The uniforms were ordered today. They will be of the same heavy blue cloth as the men conductors, a long coat and a short skirt, with plenty of pockets. Black taffeta caps, trimmed with gold braid, complete the outfit. The girls will handle only the street level, "hump-back" street cars. In this type the conductor sits in the center of the car and manipulates doors and the register by foot and hand.

WILL NOT REOPEN THE ALASKA CASE

Washington, Dec. 8.—The interstate commerce commission today denied a petition to re-open the Alaska case brought two years ago by delegate James Wickersham, representing the small shippers of that territory. He claimed that the carriers were favoring large interests and discriminating against small shippers.

CHICAGO TO HELP. Chicago, Dec. 8.—Mayor Thompson has appointed a special committee to take care of the Halifax relief work here. The committee will hold a public meeting today.

RELIEF OF SUFFERERS UNDER WAY AT HALIFAX

Prompt Steps Taken to Care for the Destitute and Save Them From Perils of Storm.

French Ship Mont Blanc Was Floating Bomb—Steel Plates Hurdled Five Miles by Force of the Terrific Explosion.

RELIEF TRAINS BURIED. St. John, N. B., Dec. 8.—Railroad officials arriving here today reported that all trains to and from Halifax are buried in snowdrifts.

One of the worst blizzards in years is sweeping the country about the stricken city.

A Canadian government railway snowplow despatched last night from Moncton, N. B., to clear the tracks for trains between that city and Halifax was derailed. A wrecking crew from Moncton was hurrying to the scene today.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 8.—A lashing nor'easter burdened with sleet, that howled in from the Atlantic all night and was still raging early today, failed to halt relief work in this stricken city.

Twenty thousand destitute men, women and children were sheltered in buildings and homes which still remain standing. Barriers of tar paper were built in the shattered windows to shut out the bitter gale.

CHILDREN SUFFER MOST. The loss in Halifax falls heaviest upon the children. Whole schools, filled with pupils, were demolished, leaving but one or two survivors. In other schools every child was injured by flying glass.

TWO THOUSAND DEAD, FIVE THOUSAND INJURED, TWENTY THOUSAND HOMELESS, WAS THE TOLL IN HALIFAX AND ITS SUBURBS WHEN THE FRENCH MOUNTAIN SHIP MONT BLANC BLEW UP IN THE HARBOR THURSDAY.

ACCORDING TO CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ESTIMATES TODAY, THE DAMAGE IS \$30,000,000.

DESTITUTE CARED FOR. The thorough checking up work of the citizens' committee resulted in every destitute person in Halifax being taken care of last night, when it was certain death to wander through the storm-swept streets without proper clothing.

Many of the refugees are going about wrapped in blankets. Their own clothes are torn to shreds.

The wildest weather the Atlantic coast can produce has practically ended the hunt for bodies. A thick pall of snow covers the blackened ruins of the North End. The sleet helped the exhausted firemen once again to subdue the fires in the wreckage.

STATEMENT ON DAMAGE. Justice Harris of Halifax, chairman of the citizens' finance committee, issued the following statement today: "The committee of the citizens of Halifax was appointed to make a public statement on the damage to the city of Halifax and the town of Dartmouth and after a careful survey as possible of the damaged area the committee reported that while every building in Halifax and Dartmouth was more or less damaged, the devastated area is found near the scene of the explosion and embraces chiefly districts occupied by workers and the poorer classes.

"Between three and four thousand of such dwellings have been completely destroyed by the explosion or by fire.

TWENTY THOUSAND DESTITUTE. "The number of those affected is estimated at 25,000 and while, of course, the circumstances of all or even most of them cannot be ascertained until each case is investigated, yet it is feared the destitute poor in the area will number upwards of 20,000 and their actual loss and the estimated cost of their temporary maintenance will reach between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

"It is to be clearly understood that in this estimate the number of persons rendered destitute are considered, and this is the portion of the population of Halifax and Dartmouth least able to bear the loss, and which must be immediately relieved by generous assistance.

LONG LEGAL FIGHT IN INDIA PLOT CASE

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—Charges by United States Attorney Preston, that John Singh, witness and defendant in the Hindu plot cases is plotting to thwart prosecution and to lay the foundation for a long legal fight to keep himself in American jurisdiction were before District Judge Van Fleet today.

UNITED STATES TO LEAD NATIONS OF WORLD IN SCIENCE

Secretary of the Interior Lane Pays Tribute to American Genius in His Annual Report.

Washington, Dec. 8.—All nations will be America's debtor for leadership in scientific as well as political thought as the result of the war, Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane stated today in a personal preface to his annual report.

"Our status in this war," he said, "gives us a place of moral ascendancy from which, if we are great enough to be humble, we can become real masters of men, conquerors of the invisible kingdom of man's kind."

He pointed to the war use of peace machinery in his department, the chemists who have "met America's needs as ably as Germany's did," and the geologists who construct dry, mudless trenches. When submarine shipping destruction seriously cut down pyrite imports from Spain, new mines were located in Georgia and Alabama promising a yield of 30,000 tons monthly, more than 15 ships could bring from Europe. The gas helmet of mine saving crews developed into the gas masks for American troops at the front.

FOR LEASING BILLS. Secretary Lane's preface contained no general recommendations except a suggestion to congress that pending leasing bills be passed to release water power and petroleum resources for the war.

"But this war is not to be won by the measuring of resources," he said, "for if wars were to be so won, China possibly would be our only rival. The spirit of the people is the making of the nation. The extent to which a people can co-operate marks the point of civilization they have reached. The greatest outstanding fact of the past year is that under the influence of a common danger and purpose Americans are quick to come together."

EMPLOY GIRLS AS DANCING PARTNERS FOR THE SOLDIERS

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 8.—Three thousand girls will be enlisted eventually by the Y. W. C. A. to live in a special hotel at the gates of Camp Lewis—America's biggest army cantonment—and act as dancing partners for soldiers in pavilions that are to be erected.

The girls will be under the supervision of Y. W. C. A. and ministerial federation chaperons. The initial dance pavilion will accommodate 1000 dance couples.

A minimum wage of \$15 a week will be paid to the girls and they will report to matrons and be checked each afternoon and evening. They will receive a commission of 5 cents on every dance. Soldiers will pay 10 cents.

These "dance hall" girls will come from all along the Pacific coast and many society girls are expected to "do their bit" dancing.

BODIES OF MEMBERS OF CREW PICKED UP

New York, Dec. 8.—Thirty-four of the crew of the Belgian relief commission's steamship Ima, which collided with the Mont Blanc in Halifax harbor, were picked up by a British warship, according to messages received here by the commission. The captain and the first and second officers, and three members of the crew, it was stated, have not been heard from.

Word also was included in the message that the Sigma, another vessel in the service of the commission, is badly damaged by her holds being flooded and is unable to proceed.

STEAMER TO SAIL FOR STRICKEN CITY

Boston, Dec. 8.—The steamship Calvin Austin, offered by the United States shipping board here for sending relief to Halifax, will sail for the stricken city tomorrow morning.

Enough glass for 500 houses, tar paper, clothing, blankets, rolls of cotton and other material will be carried. A general appeal has been sent out for contributions.

The vessel is fast and may reach Halifax before some of the relief trains which are reported snowbound. It is believed she will be in the stricken city early Monday.

Mountain Helps to Save Italy



THE invasion of Italy from the Trentino has been tried by Germans and Austrians, but always the attacks have been held back by the natural barrier, Monte Grappa. The big mountain is all but impassable. Germans have reached its northern slopes, but were thrown back by the Italian line entrenched on the rugged fastnesses of the mountainside. The map shows Grappa's relation to the Piave line.

FIGHTING ON THE ITALIAN LINE GROWS VERY HEAVY

Austro-German Forces Bringing Up More Guns for Renewal of Attempt to Break Through Defenses.

French in Action and Poilus Enthused Over Prospects of Open Fighting—Mild Weather Helps the Invading Forces.

By HENRY WOOD. With the French armies in Italy Dec. 8.—French troops are in action today against ever-increasing masses of Austro-Germans who are plainly preparing for Germany's supreme effort to break through the Italian line.

The battle all along the Italian front is becoming heavier. The enemy is massing men, guns and material. Heavy artillery, which the Italian's destruction of bridges and roads delayed, is now being brought to the fighting line in daily increasing numbers. The shell fire over Italian positions is daily more violent.

GREAT MASSES CONCENTRATED. More troops in great masses are being concentrated in various sectors according to word brought back by Italian aviators.

Prisoners just taken say old divisions, decimated by the Italian defensive fire, have been taken back and their groups plugged up with fresh men. Entirely new divisions have arrived. Apparently the enemy is taking the fullest time necessary to perfect his plans for massing the greatest possible strength in men and materials and then to strike his supreme blow.

On the lower Piave the Austrians every night doggedly attempt to throw bridges across the river. Every day Italian and allied artillery destroy them.

GUARDS VENETIAN PLAINS. On the northern end of the line, heavy enemy concentrations are apparently being made behind the Asiago plateau and Monte Grappa—the latter constituting both in appearance and reality a veritable Gibraltar guarding the Venetian plains.

The most remarkable winter weather on record is favorable equally to the Austro-Germans and the allies as preparations go forward on both sides for the impending impact.

Where a year ago the entire mountainous front east of Lake Garda was buried under nine feet of snow, today the rocks are bare—except the peaks. The air is clear as a crystal. The sun shines brightly. The cold is hard and dry and intense.

WINTER WILL HELP ALLIES. When winter eventually does break it will be the Austro-Germans who will suffer under the greatest handicap. They must transport supplies for great distances over difficult mountainous regions.

Inspired by knowledge that they are now fighting over the same historic battle fields, where a dozen former French armies in Italy attained their greatest glory, the present day poilus are taking up contact with the enemy with a degree of enthusiasm, un-equaled since 1914.

The allies show an ever-increasing strength on the whole Piave river line.

HEARINGS POSTPONED. Washington, Dec. 8.—At the request of the western railroads, the interstate commerce commission today indefinitely postponed hearings on the 15 per cent increased freight rate application these carriers made. Uncertainty of the action President Wilson and congress contemplate taking to solve the freight congestion was the reason cited.

SCANDAL IN CAMP. New Orleans, La., Dec. 8.—What may develop into a big federal scandal is believed to have come to light here today with the arrest of a military officer and three civilians in connection with alleged soft drink frauds at Camp Shelby. The four are technically charged with "conspiracy to defraud the government."

BLIZZARD IN NEW YORK. New York, Dec. 8.—New York had the back-fling of a blizzard today, manifested in a brisk snow-storm and a whistling wind. The temperature was down to the lowest so far this winter. Traffic suffered considerably.

WEATHER FORECAST. Forecast for Boise and vicinity: Fair tonight and Sunday. For Idaho: Tonight and Sunday, fair south, rain or snow north portions. Highest temperature yesterday, 40; lowest temperature this morning, 20; mean temperature yesterday, 34.