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PROBE CAUSE OF TUBANTIA SINKING

Officers of Lost Liner Make Affidavit Ship Was Torpedoed, and Berlin Indicates Act Will Be Disavowed

Washington, Mar. 17.—An investigation has been ordered into the sinking of the Dutch liner Tubantia, with Americans aboard, by an explosion in the North sea, it was announced today by Frank L. Polk, counselor of the state department.

Amsterdam, Mar. 17.—Affidavits by the first and fourth officers of the Dutch liner Tubantia, sunk by an explosion in the North sea, declared that the vessel was torpedoed, according to the admiralty's official announcement telegraphed here today.

Officers said they saw the torpedo. A majority of the survivors asserted the liner was torpedoed, but none saw any trace of a submarine.

Newspapers favoring the allies asserted positively that the great liner was torpedoed.

German sympathizers were equally positive that she struck a mine.

Berlin, Mar. 17.—If it is clearly shown that the Dutch liner Tubantia was torpedoed, Germany will promptly disavow the act and fully compensate those who suffered by it, sentiment here indicated.

Dutch despatches, however, practically agreed that the steamer sank after hitting a floating mine in the North sea. Admiralty officials refused to comment upon the probability of German submarines cruising near where the Tubantia went down.

London, Mar. 17.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, stated today he had official information that the Dutch liner Tubantia, sunk by an explosion in the North sea was anchored and fully lighted when struck.

London, Mar. 17.—Fifteen are feared to have perished in the sinking of the Dutch liner Tubantia, the Evening Standard declared today. A life boat containing that number is missing, and it is thought the craft may have been swamped.

REICHSTAG HEARS OF FOURTH WAR LOAN

Berlin, Mar. 17.—Introducing a new war budget in the reichstag today, Dr. Helfrich of the German treasury declared enemy agents were spreading rumors to hinder subscriptions to the kaiser's fourth war loan.

"The campaign of defamation has extended into Germany," he charged. "Let me remind you of the great battling now at Verdun. The troops have a right to expect we will prove worthy of them, and that every one at home will contribute to the victory."

He said that the German public debt has doubled this year, but that in spite of it Germany was financially better off than the allies.

BROOKLYN PASTOR TO SUCCEED REV. W. B. HINSON

Portland, Mar. 17.—Rev. William Russell Owen, pastor of Hanson Place Baptist church, Brooklyn, N. Y., was today notified of his appointment as pastor of the White Temple of Portland. He succeeds Rev. W. B. Hinson, who has resigned.

FRANCE SPENDING \$18,000,000 PER DAY ON THE WAR

Paris, Mar. 17.—War credits for the second quarter were voted today by the chamber of deputies. Minister of Finance Ribot estimated that France was spending \$18,000,000 a day, and had been doing so since April 1, last.

Great Britain is now spending \$20,000,000 a day. Next month it is estimated the British will be spending \$26,000,000 a day.

BURNED BRIDGES DELAY RESCUE OF COLONISTS

El Paso, Mar. 17.—Mexicans burned bridges of the Mexico & Northwestern railway near San Pedro, further delaying the rescue of American Mormon colonists. It was stated here today.

RESOLUTION FOR LARGER ARMY SIGNED BY WILSON

Washington, Mar. 17.—President Wilson at 10:30 a. m. today signed the joint house and senate resolution providing that the army be recruited to its full strength. The provisions of the resolution are effective immediately.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERANS DRILL

Tacoma, Mar. 17.—Twenty Spanish-American war veterans of Tacoma have been drilling as officers in the local national guard armory for the past six months under secret instructions from the secretary of war, it was learned today.

These men intend to apply for commissions in the regular army should an emergency require their services. It was learned further that Major T. J. Cunningham, of Seattle, has been appointed commander of a new military organization composed of Spanish-American war veterans, for the Department of Washington and Alaska.

The war department's instructions urge immediate preparations by drill of the physically fit for service as officers in case of an emergency, and offered supplies of equipment, even to guns and sidearms.

The same instructions, it is believed, have been issued to veterans throughout the country in a movement to fit a large body of men for instant service in case of need.

CARRANZA GIVES ASSURANCE OF FRIENDSHIP FOR U. S.

Washington, Mar. 17.—President Wilson today received further assurances that Venustiano Carranza approves of the American expedition against Francisco Villa.

It was learned Carranza gave Consul Stillman additional expressions of confidence and willingness to cooperate.

LONG HUNT FOR VILLA PREDICTED

San Antonio, Mar. 17.—Just before starting for Washington this afternoon, Roberto Pasquero, confidential agent of Venustiano Carranza, predicted a long hunt for Francisco Villa and his men.

"It took 11 years to eliminate Jesse James and his band," said Pasquero. "Villa is in a country vastly better adapted to hiding than the territory roamed by James. Villa is suffering from the worst swollen head in history because the American papers have lauded him so frequently and given him so much attention."

FORT DE VAUX ATTACK IS RENEWED

Germans Resume Offensive Before Verdun, But Are Mowed Down by French as They Charge the Heights

London, Mar. 17.—Halted by a withering fire west of the Meuse, the Germans resumed their drive against the northeastern Verdun forts with smashing attacks on the village of Vaux and Fort de Vaux, Paris reported today.

Preceding their attacks, the Germans unleashed a terrific artillery fire upon the French trenches. Then regiments of Brandenburgs, who won so much glory in the fighting at Douaumont, emerged from ravines in which they had been concealed east of Vaux and attempted to scale the heights of Fort de Vaux.

Long before they could reach the crest of the 300-foot slope a storm of shells ploughed through their ranks from cannon fired at close range. They were mowed down by scores.

Indications were that the slaughter of Brandenburgs would be the equal of that which occurred ten days ago. Berlin told of repulsing two French attacks against German positions on "Dead Man's" hill. In the first the French ran forward steadily, in spite of a mathematical fire which killed or mangled men at every step. Only a few survived the terrific German fire and reached the parapets. When they got there so few were left that they could do nothing but jump into the German trenches and surrender.

A second attack launched along the path of the first was even more disastrous to the French, Berlin said. German guns shattered the French ranks before the charge gained any momentum, leaving only a few wounded to crawl back to shelter.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARE FOLLOWING VILLA INTO CHIHUAHUA MOUNTAINS

El Paso, Mar. 17.—If Carranzistas do not win the race to see whether Mexicans or Americans shall capture Francisco Villa, the United States forces must follow him to his favorite haunts in mountainous western Chihuahua.

This was made evident today by reports from the advancing "front." While Brigadier-General Pershing's troops were laboring through the dust and heat of Chihuahua deserts, Villa and his followers were said to have arrived in the forbidding mountains of San Buena Ventura district. Familiar as Villa is with the wild Sierra Madre west of central Chihuahua, having roamed the country as an outlaw since his youth, observers forecasted a long guerilla campaign, with bloody night raids by the bandits upon American camps.

News of the unopposed progress of two American columns toward Villa's retreat was sent to San Antonio by the government's wire, but El Paso's official reports were restricted to stories of unofficial attempts to get 400 American Mormon settler refugees out of Mexico.

After arrangements had been made for a train to go in after the Mormons, while another train was scheduled to start northward carrying part of the Americans to safety, both plans were upset by Mexicans cutting

AEROPLANE PILOTS U.S. SOLDIERS

General Funston Reports Progress of American Troops, Villa Not Yet Being Located by the Scouting Parties

San Antonio, Mar. 17.—As yet unexposed to an enemy's fire, the United States troops hunting Francisco Villa pushed farther into Chihuahua deserts today, it was indicated by official announcements here.

Major-General Frederick Funston issued a bulletin stating that no casualties had been suffered by the Americans, and that so far the scouts had failed to locate any Villistas.

One hundred Carranza scouts and an army aeroplane are being used in the effort to find Villa, it was stated.

Army headquarters were still apprehensive with regard to the attitude of Mexican peons, who, ignorant of the expedition's real nature, may see in it a "gringo" invasion of Mexico and fight accordingly.

"I note certain dispatches state no Carranzistas are co-operating with General Pershing's column," said Funston today. "On the contrary, about 100 are with him. They are not part of General Bertani's forces, but were connected with a subordinate body which met Pershing at Las Palomas after his men had crossed the border. Bertani was not there then, and did not personally meet the American column."

The report that Colonel Herbert J. Slocum had offered \$50,000 for Villa's head was not confirmed, and was regarded as erroneous. Slocum, it was stated, had no authority to make such an offer.

Increasing excitement among Mexicans at Harlingen, Tex., was noted. Colonel Bullard, who is there with the Twenty-sixth U. S. Infantry, does not regard the situation alarming.

DOUBT LOYALTY OF THE TROOPS OF GOVERNOR CALLES

Douglas, Mar. 17.—With 700,000 rounds of ammunition here waiting transportation to Governor Calles of Sonora, ranchers arriving from Nacozari today expressed doubt as to the loyalty of Calles' troops in that region.

They discredited rumors that Villista bands were heading for Cabañona to join Carranzistas mobilized there, who have been reported in a mutinous mood.

Should Villa escape to the Sonora side of the Sierra Madre, an American expedition against him, starting from Douglas, was considered a possibility. The forces at Camp Douglas could move on an hour's notice.

Douglas has been placed under the most strict military censorship, the same as that enforced at Columbus. Newspaper correspondents were put on their honor not to send out uncensored dispatches, even if they devised methods of "beating the censor."

Five hundred de facto government cavalrymen have been sent to guard Ojitas Pass, and prevent Villa from slipping through it.

SAN DIEGO AGAIN IN GALA ATTIRE

San Diego, Mar. 17.—Thousands of people are flocking into San Diego today by train, automobile and steamer, for the formal opening of the Panama-California International exposition tomorrow. A big program has been arranged for the day and night, including land and water parades, music, speaking and special events. At noon President Wilson, in the white house at Washington, will press a button that rings a great gong on the plaza and the flags of 18 nations will be unfurled.

Secretary of the Interior Lane will represent President Wilson at the opening. Many other notables will speak. All attendance records for the local exposition are expected to be shattered by noon tomorrow.

BRITISH FAIL TO RELIEVE GARRISON AT KUT-EL-AMARA

Constantinople, Mar. 17.—British defeated in attempting to relieve General Townshend's beleaguered garrison in Kut-el-Amara a week ago, have been forced to begin a general retreat, it was officially announced today.

TUBANTIA WAS AT ANCHOR WHEN SUNK

London, Mar. 17.—All evidence indicates that the Dutch liner Tubantia, sunk in the North sea, with Americans aboard, was given its death blow by a torpedo, Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, asserted this afternoon. Contrary to early reports, he declared he had official advices showing that the liner was lying at anchor, fully lighted, when the explosion ripped a hole in its stern, causing it to plunge to the bottom within three hours.

Discussing the general situation in Germany, based on recent British advices, Lord Robert declared it was evident that economic and financial conditions there were rapidly becoming worse.

Portland, Mar. 17.—"Business is slow," recruiting officers declared today, despite the prospect of excitement through the American expedition into Mexico. The months of February and March thus far show fewer recruits than for any like period in several years, it was stated.

REORGANIZE U. S. ARMY IS PLAN

President and Congress Work to Bring Regular Troops Up to Full Strength and to Further Preparedness

Washington, Mar. 17.—While Brigadier-General John J. Pershing's double-header American expedition was slowly crossing Chihuahua deserts to close with Francisco Villa and his bandits, congress and President Wilson united to reorganize the U. S. army.

President Wilson signed the joint resolution of house and senate bringing the regular army up to its full strength. It provides for an immediate increase in the number of Uncle Sam's fighting men.

Army preparedness bills are ready for consideration by both the upper and lower houses. A cabinet meeting is scheduled to consider whether additional border forces should be mobilized, and whether congress should be asked for immediate emergency appropriations to pay for the present expedition and provide for the 20,000 army recruits authorized under the joint resolution.

It was indicated that the making of both these requests would be postponed until the extent of the campaign against Villa, and the length of time probably required to hunt him down, could be accurately forecasted.

Leaders admitted that the final army scheme would be drafted at administration conferences immediately following passage of the Hay-Chamberlain bills.

Setting aside all other business, the house today took up the Hay preparedness measure. While some hoped to pass it tomorrow, leaders believed the debate would force the time of voting over into next week.

Senator Chamberlain was expected to ask that the Myers water power bill be sidetracked for consideration of his army law.

An increased demand for preparedness on account of the Mexican situation was indicated, and it was believed the authorized army strength probably would be raised over the 114,000 men approved by the house.

Washington, Mar. 17.—Congress, dropping all other considerations, today began actual work on army reorganization. Senator Chamberlain reported his army increase bill from committee, and announced he was ready to call it up for consideration Monday.

(Continued on page 2)

BETHMANN-HOLLWEG GETS ENDORSEMENT

Berlin, Mar. 17.—Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg has received a vote of confidence from the Bavarian ministry, according to Munich despatches today.

The chancellor, it is understood, has a large majority in the reichstag, which will register itself emphatically during the coming week, if opposition asserts itself.

Authoritative information to the United Press regarding the resignation of Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, originator of the submarine campaign followed a disagreement with Hollweg over disagreements with the United States. The chancellor favors a vigorous submarine warfare, but disagreed with von Tirpitz over the desirability of disregarding neutral rights.