

## RUMANIA REFUSES TO ENTER IN WAR; WILL BE NEUTRAL

Joins Greece On Stand of Non-interference In Conflict In Balkan States

### ALLIED MINISTERS QUIT ATHENS, REPORT

Petrograd Declares Germans On Defensive Along Whole Battle Line of Eastern Front. Berlin, However, Claims Russian Attacks Repulsed; Italy May Help In Serbia

## RUSSIA AT WAR WITH BULGARIA

Petrograd, Oct. 16.—12:01 p. m. via London, 2:47 p. m.—Russia regards herself in a state of war with Bulgaria from the moment the latter country attacked Serbia, according to a statement issued today by the foreign office here. The formal declaration of war is awaiting the conclusion of an exchange of telegrams between Russia and her allies.

(By the Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 17, 1:55 a. m.—Allied troops left Saloniki Saturday for the Serbian front at the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier, according to an Athens dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company.

Petrograd, Oct. 16, via London, Oct. 17.—British submarines operating in the Baltic Sea have sunk five German transports and forced another ashore, according to a Russian official statement given out here tonight.

London, Oct. 16.—Rumania has joined Greece in declining to enlarge the confederation in the near east by declaring officially that the Rumanian government intends to preserve strict neutrality.

This step followed close on intimations from unofficial German sources that it was time that Bucharest gave more definite indications of Rumania's stand, in view of the latest developments in the Balkans. From a German source also comes a report that British and French ministers are leaving Athens. But this report is discredited here, and it is without any other confirmation.

### Germans On Defensive.

Unofficial reports from Petrograd say the Germans appear to be on the defensive along the entire line, except that section near Dvinsk, which, it is said, they have been ordered to capture at any cost.

Berlin, however, officially reports Russian attacks not only before Dvinsk, but at a number of other places, and adds that they have been repulsed. These attacks were all comprised within the army group of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, which is taken to mean that the Russians have assumed something in the nature of a general offensive along the front, of which Dvinsk forms vital salient.

Along the western front many isolated bomb attacks have occurred, with varying fortunes. Italy is again unofficially reported to be on the verge of joining her allies in the Balkan campaign. While the French and British are still landing troops at Saloniki for the army which will be under the supreme command of General Sarrail, the former commander in chief of the French army of the orient, the Germans announce that their forces continue to make headway against the Serbians, whose positions south of Semendria have been stormed.

The Bulgarians are said to have forced the frontier ridges at several points between Negotin and Strumika. That Bulgaria does not anticipate any hostile action on the part of Greece is indicated by advices from Bucharest that Greece has purchased large amounts of wheat from Rumania which will be permitted passage through Bulgarian territory.

## TO AWARD BIDS FOR U. S. U-BOATS MONDAY

Washington, Oct. 16.—Bids for sixteen coast defense submarines and six destroyers will be awarded by the Navy Department next Monday. The vessels were authorized at the last session of Congress. Bids for two fleet submarines, the largest submarines ever designed, will be opened next month.

## VILLA REPORTED SHOT TO DEATH BY HIS OWN TROOPS

Mexican Chief Said To Have Been Taken Prisoner By His Men and Executed

### KILLED IN DISPUTE IS ANOTHER STORY

Convention Leader Declared To Have Demanded Loan From Comrade and Ordered Man Shot Upon Refusal; Army Divided and Villa Received Mortal Wound, Is Rumor

(By the Associated Press.)

El Paso, Texas, Oct. 16.—A denial that General Francisco Villa, chief of the Convention forces in Mexico, had been arrested and court-martialed by his generals came from Casas Grandes tonight in a message, signed by Col. Silva, Villa's military secretary.

El Paso, Texas, Oct. 16.—Unconfirmed reports have been current here for the past twenty-four hours that General Francisco Villa, chief of the convention forces in Mexico, has been shot. One report, brought here Thursday by a Mexican arriving from Casas Grandes but not circulated until late yesterday, was that Villa had been arrested by his own men at Casas Grandes and sentenced to death. This report received apparent confirmation from an American arrival, who gave a railway employe as his source of information.

Another story was brought here today by a Mexican, who said that Villa was shot late yesterday in a fight that broke out in his army. This version is that Villa demanded a forced loan from one of his comrades and on being refused, ordered him executed. Division in the army is said to have resulted, and in a fight that followed Villa was reported to have received a mortal wound.

### General Fierro Killed.

Official announcement was made today at Juarez of the death of General Rudolfo Fierro, second in command of the Villa army, who was held responsible for the killing of William Benton, a British ranchman and Anton Bauch, an American, at Juarez about two years ago. The announcement stated merely that Fierro was drowned while fording a lake near Villa Ahumada.

Fierro, whose career was stained with innumerable murders, was one of the most picturesque leaders produced by the Mexican revolution. He was formerly a railroad brakeman, and later turned bandit, robbing an express train at Lampasas, Mexico.

When the revolution broke out, Fierro joined Villa and won the latter's esteem at the battles of Torreón and Zacatecas. Subsequently he became known as Villa's "right hand man."

One of Fierro's exploits, as reported from the battlefield, was the shooting of more than 300 prisoners taken in battle. He was a large man physically, alert, cunning and apparently insensible to fear. In the battle at Torreón he is credited with having uncoupled a train in the face of a deadly fire, preventing the arrival of Huerta reinforcements.

### On Way to Sonora.

(By the Associated Press.)

Douglas, Ariz., Oct. 16.—General P. Elias Calles, Carranza, commander at Agua Prieta, said today he had been notified that General Villa was enroute from Casas Grandes to Sonora. He believes his information is correct.

(By the Associated Press.)

### Not Reported to U. S.

Washington, Oct. 16.—Messages reaching the State department early today from George C. Carothers, its special agent at Casas Grandes, made no mention of anything of happening to General Villa.

## HALF OF VICTIMS OF ZEPPELIN RAID DIE

(By the Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 16.—11:30 p. m.—The medical evidence at the inquest held today on the 13 victims in the London area of the Zeppelin raid Wednesday night, disclosed that the death of half of them, the majority of whom were women, was due to heart failure or shock resulting from the terrifying effect of the exploding bombs and the gun fire.

## 16 BELIEVED DEAD WHEN MOTOR TRAIN PLUNGES IN CREEK

Of Sixty-four Occupants Only Four Escape Wreck Without Injuries

### RECOVER BODIES OF FIVE WOMEN KILLED

Many Passengers Are Young Girl Teachers On Gasoline Express That Goes Through Bridge at Randolph, Kan. Recovery of Victims Hindered By Raging Torrent

(By the Associated Press.)

Randolph, Kansas, Oct. 16.—Sixteen persons are believed to have lost their lives when a passenger car of a Union Pacific motor train plunged through a bridge into Fancy Creek, near here, today. Eight bodies had been recovered tonight and at least ten more were believed to be in the mud and water filled car. Most of the recovered dead, including five women and five men, were drowned.

Of the sixty-five occupants of the motor train, only four escaped unhurt.

### Many Young Women.

Many of the passengers were young women school teachers. All went in a heap when the car struck the bridge, weakened by three inches of rain and plunged into the swollen creek.

A rescue of the passengers was extremely difficult and many were badly injured after they had been extricated from the half submerged car. It was necessary for the survivors to crawl up the sides of the car, using the window ledges and seats as the rungs of a ladder and many fell repeatedly after almost achieving success. Nearly all became unconscious from loss of blood or shock on finally reaching safety.

## FATHER AND SON BLOWN TO PIECES BY DYNAMITE

(By the Associated Press.)

High Point, Oct. 16.—W. L. Kivitt, 49, a farmer, and his son, Burns Kivitt, 10 years old, were literally blown to pieces at their home a few miles east of here today by a dynamite explosion.

Kivitt and his son together with a negro farm hand went to a field to blast stumps. The negro stated that he went into the woods a short distance away and there heard the explosion. Going back he looked for the man and boy but could not find them.

After a search an arm and leg of the boy were found nearby, while parts of the father's body were scattered about the field for some distance. Bits of flesh were found among the limbs and on trunks of trees. Kivitt's head was blown from his body and the face of both victims were torn beyond recognition.

Fragments of flesh and clothing were found on tree and ground for over seventy-five feet around. Hundreds have visited the scene of accident. Kivitt's wife and eight children are frantic with grief. The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist church, of which deceased was a member.

## YEGGS BLOW P. O. SAFE AND ESCAPE WITH \$150

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Wadesboro, Oct. 16.—The postoffice at Marshville was entered, the safe blown open and contents stolen last night. The robber prized open the front door and the door into the work room, saturated the safe door with nitroglycerine and blew it off. About fifty dollars in money and one hundred dollars in stamps were stolen. As the robber took the money order book it was impossible to determine the amount of the loss, but the postmaster had deposited his money and about one thousand dollars in stamps in the local bank the afternoon before and the haul of the robbers was not great. No one heard the explosion except the station agent, who made an investigation, but seeing the postoffice door closed did not suspect any trouble there. He states that he heard an automobile leaving town just after the explosion. No clue was left to trace the robbers and nothing has developed to throw any light upon the guilty party.

## 1,200,000 TROOPS IN EVENT OF WAR IS U. S. DEFENSE PLAN

Employers To Be Asked To Allow Their Men Two Months Yearly To Drill

### TO RAISE ARMY OF 800,000 IN SIX YEARS

Success of Program Depends On Congress, But Leaders Rely On Patriotism of Business Men To Carry Project Through For Citizen Forces. Navy Plans Announced

Washington, Oct. 16.—Employers throughout the United States—corporations, manufacturers, professional men, tradesmen and business men of all classes—will be asked to contribute, as their share in the national defense permission for their employees to engage without serious financial loss in two months military training during each of three years.

This is an essential part of the administration's plan for raising a citizen army of 800,000 men in six years which, with a regular army of 140,000 men and 300,000 reserves, would give a trained force, exclusive of State militia, of about 1,200,000 in the event of war.

The success of the plan, officials admit, depends not on the appropriations of Congress, for its cost will be comparatively small, but on the patriotic response of employers, to whom an appeal will be made to furnish as many men each year, at different seasons, as they can spare and who wish to join the proposed continental army.

Administration officials are confident that even though it is proposed to enlist only 133,000 men a year in the continentals, or a total of nearly 800,000 in the first six-year period, more than that number would be attracted by the outdoor life of a military camp if they could be assured by their employers that their positions would not be lost or their earnings seriously decreased. The proposed enlistment requires two months service for each of three years, and liability for service during the remaining three years only in event of war.

The army plans for more than 1,000,000 trained men in six years and the Navy's program of ten dreadnoughts and six battle cruisers within five years, both of which will be presented to Congress with the endorsement of President Wilson, were the absorbing topics of interest here today. The proposed army appropriation bill will be \$182,000,000, or an increase of \$72,000,000 over last year, and that of the navy is \$216,000,000, a \$68,000,000 increase. The total defense budget of nearly \$400,000,000 is an increase of \$140,000,000 which it is understood is to be raised from a return to certain tariff duties removed last year.

Added details of the navy plans became known tonight. The five year program includes, besides the ten dreadnoughts and six battle cruisers, 85 coast submarines, fifteen sea going submarines, fifty destroyers, fifteen scout cruisers and five gunboats. Two dreadnoughts will be built each year. Two battle cruisers will be built the first year, one the third year, two the fourth year and one the fifth year.

This plan was agreed upon in order that the appropriations out of the \$500,000,000 fund to be expended for new ships during the five years might be evenly distributed through the various sessions of Congress. The first year's bill will provide \$18,000,000 to complete ships already authorized, besides the new dreadnoughts and battle cruisers and provide also for the construction of 25 coast submarines, five sea going submarines, fifteen destroyers, three scout cruisers, two gunboats, one fuel ship and one hospital ship, \$2,000,000 for aircraft and for 10,000 additional men and 250 additional midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy.

The decision to increase the personnel was welcomed in naval circles where it had been variously estimated that the navy is now from 10,000 to 18,000 men short of the complement necessary for ships built and building.

By authorizing sixteen capital ships in the five year program, the American fleet when all ships are completed will be composed of 125 of 33 dreadnoughts and battle cruisers for the fighting line and thirteen battleships of the second line or a total of 46 capital ships. This would be exclusive of nine battleships now in commission which will be superannuated in 1924.