

U.S. PRESIDENT SIGNS RESOLUTION DECLARING WAR AT 1:13

UNITED STATES ISSUES DEFIANCE TO GERMANY

Vice President Signs Resolution at 12:13 and President 1:13—While Ink Was Still Wet News of America's Action was Flashed To All Countries—Swiss Minister Informs Germany—Every Steam Whistle In Capital Opened Wide As Signal Told of War

Washington, April 6.—War was declared at 1:13 this afternoon.

At exactly that hour President Wilson signed the joint resolution passed by the house and senate, declaring a state of war between the United States and Germany.

An hour before the resolution was signed by Vice President Marshall at 1:13.

These were the last formalities necessary to make the United States an ally of England, France, and Russia in the world war of democracies against autocracy.

As the president affixed his signature to the document, Lieutenant Commander Byron McCandless signalled across the street to the navy department that war was formally on and orders were flashed out from the government wireless to the ships at sea and to the forts of the United States.

Simultaneously every steam whistle in Washington and on the Potomac river nearby was opened wide and their screeches could be heard in every corner of the nation's capitol.

While the ink was still wet on the historic war resolution, messages to all the countries of the earth were sent notifying them of this government's action.

The state department informed the Swiss minister here representing German interests in the United States of this country's action. The minister will communicate the word formally to Berne by cable and thence to Berlin.

United States representatives in every foreign and South American capitol should have the news within the next 24 hours.

President Wilson signed the war resolution while alone in the library of the white house two minutes after it had reached the executive mansion from the capitol.

German Citizens Will Not Be Interned

San Francisco, April 6.—Plans for handling unnaturalized German residents of San Francisco and vicinity, when war is declared, are being altered by federal officials as a result of the receipt from Washington of notification that there would be no general internment of unaturalized Germans. Only those who have taken part in plots will be dealt with and then only through courts and penitentiaries and not by means of internment camps. United States District Attorney Preston will give a list of "dangerous aliens" to army authorities as soon as a state of war is declared.

PRESIDENT ISSUES PROCLAMATION DECLARING WAR

No Aliens Will Be Disturbed So Long As They Obey the Laws

Washington, April 6.—President Wilson this afternoon issued a proclamation to the people of the country declaring a state of war exists between the United States and the Imperial German government.

At the same time he especially directed all officers of the United States government, civil or military, to exercise vigilance in the discharge of their duties incident to such a state of war.

At the same time he appealed to all American citizens to uphold the laws of the land and "give undivided and willing support to these measures which may be adopted by the constitutional authorities in prosecuting the war to a successful issue and in obtaining a secure and just peace."

Text of Proclamation.

"Whereas, The congress of the United States, in the exercise of the constitutional authority vested in them, have resolved, by joint resolution of the senate and house of representatives bearing date this day, that the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German government which has been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared.

"Whereas, It is provided by Section 4067 of the revised statutes, as follows: "Whereas, There is declared a war between the United States and any foreign nation or government or any invasion or predatory incursion is perpetrated, attempted or threatened against the territory of the United States by any foreign nation or government, and the president makes public proclamation of the event, all natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of the hostile nation or government being males of the age of 14 years and upwards, who shall be within the United States and not actually naturalized, shall be liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured and removed, as alien enemies.

"The president is authorized in any such event by this proclamation thereof or any public acts to direct the conduct to be observed, on the part of the United States toward the aliens who become so liable; the manner and the degree of restraint to which they shall be subject, and in what cases, and upon what security their residence shall be permitted, and to provide for the removal of those who, not being permitted to reside within the United States,

THE LUCKY THIRTEEN

Washington, April 6.—Vice President Marshall signed the war resolution at 12:13 p. m. Exactly one hour later to the second, President Wilson signed his name—at 1:13 p. m. Thirteen is President Wilson's lucky number.

THREATENED PRESIDENT

Indianapolis, Ind., April 6.—Department justice agents today arrested Christian Luckey on the charge of threatening bodily harm against the president. Luckey is alleged to have stated that if he could get to Washington he would kill the president.

MOVING TOWARD BORDER

El Paso, Texas, April 6.—Sudden movement of Mexican government troops toward the border today, in the states of Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila, is believed by federal authorities here to portend hostile action against border settlements, despite the explanation offered by Carranzista officials that the troop movements are a part of the campaign against the bandit forces under Villa.

Government agents here are watching closely for evidences of a border raid and action probably will be taken at the first hostile indication.

FRITZEN PLEADS GUILTY

New York, April 6.—Captain Alfred A. Fritzen pleaded guilty in United States district court here today to having conspired with Captain Hans Tauscher to blow up the Welland canal and was sentenced to eighteen months in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga.

Addressing the court before sentence was passed, Assistant District Attorney Knox referred to Fritzen as only a "fool in the hands of the unscrupulous Von Papen."

Fritzen was arrested in Los Angeles. He formerly was a captain of artillery in the German army and was given his first citizenship papers in this country in 1912.

BRAZIL IS ANGERED MAY DECLARE WAR

Sinking of Ship and Killing of Three Brazilian Citizens the Cause

Rio De Janeiro, April 6.—Brazil may declare war on Germany.

Official announcement today of the sinking of the Brazilian steamer Parana, killing three Brazilian citizens, aroused the most intense anti-German feeling here.

"The situation is most grave; a declaration of war against Germany may be declared," declared Foreign Secretary Muller today.

It was generally expected today that Brazil would seize all German ships in her harbors and immediately proclaim hostilities against Germany.

There was intense anxiety today as to how the situation would be affected by the presence of five hundred thousand Germans in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande.

Information here today indicated that Bolivia would probably follow Brazil in declaring war on Germany.

WILL INFORM GERMANY

Washington, April 6.—A long proclamation declaring a state of war was ready for distribution to all diplomats here as soon as the president had signed the war resolution.

The Swiss minister at his own initiative, will inform Germany of the proclamation.

Congressman Elect Tenders Resignation

Pittsburg, Pa., April 6.—Congressman-elect Orrin D. Bleakley, of Venango county, was fined \$800 in federal district court here yesterday by Judge Thompson, following his plea of nolle prosequere to a charge that his election expenses were excessive.

Bleakley, who represented the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania district, was tried in Erie last week. He is a republican. Immediately after sentence was passed Bleakley wired his resignation to Speaker Clark at Washington. Costs assessed in addition to the fine made the total penalty about \$2000.

MUNITION DEPOT IS EXPLODED BY ARTILLERY FIRE

Whole District Shaken by Terrific Concussion of Tons of Dynamite

By William Philip Stimm

With the British Armies' Afield, April 6.—British artillery fire today blew up a huge "minewarfer" depot behind the German lines near Arras. Flames rose to a height of 300 feet from the fire and the explosion of a vast quantity of dynamite stored there for the mine throwers and grenades literally shook the city of Arras.

The whole district nearby was violently tilted by the concussion.

The German wireless claim of three hundred British prisoners in the region of Noreil, of whom 240 were killed by the fire of British machine guns as they left for the rear, is a pure fabrication, according to official announcements today. The records show that in the fighting in this section only fifty are still missing, and that the dead, wounded and missing only totaled 150.

Desperate Attack Made

London, April 6.—Striving desperately to relieve tremendous pincer-like grip around St. Quentin exerted by British and French forces, picked German troops were hurled against the French line northwest of Rheims last night and today in one of the most powerful "diversions" attempted in months. The attack was delivered in force. Its object was plainly to force hurrying of reserves from other portions of the line to the aid of the attacked French troops, thus relieving the allied pressure against the German front around St. Quentin.

Front dispatches today declared the fighting in the Rheims sector was proceeding with unabated violence. The French were forced to relinquish a few trenches here, but for the most part succeeded in recapturing those points which fell in the first fury of the German attack. The Tontons' assault was attempted over a front of more than a mile.

Meanwhile, dispatches indicated systematic progress in the encircling movement around St. Quentin by both the French and British forces.

French Make Good Gains

Paris, April 6.—French forces made large gains north of Landricourt, south of the Oise, and also recaptured some of the trenches northwest of Rheims, which were taken in the first rush of the German attack there yesterday, according to today's official statement.

Artillery firing continued active during the night between the Somme and the Oise, the statement continued.

North of LaFol Four, the Germans counter attacked after a violent period of artillery preparation, but were checked by a curtain of the French fire. There were numerous patrol encounters in this same region.

Submarines Along Route

New York, April 6.—German submarines are near the great circle trade route between New York and Cape San Roque and other South American ports, a warning sent out early today said.

British and other merchant vessels were warned to be on the lookout for U-boats in latitude 26 north, longitude 56-42, west.

THE WEATHER

Oregon: Tonight and Saturday showers, probably fair east portion; winds mostly southerly.

At 3 p. m. yesterday, the headquarters company, composed of the band and mounted detachment, 53 men, was mustered, in command of Captain Logus.

91 GERMAN SHIPS SEIZED A TONNAGE OF 564,696

Marines Boarded Vessels In All Ports Few Minutes After War Resolution Was Signed—Eight of Number Were In Pacific Coast Ports—All Were Built Purposely for Conversion Into Auxiliary Cruisers—Fourteen Larger Ones Will Carry 40,000 Troops

Washington, April 6.—In seizing the ninety-one German ships in American ports the United States acquires vessels purposely built for conversion into auxiliary cruisers.

It was learned at the department of commerce today that most of the passenger ships are built as naval auxiliaries with gun platforms, reinforced decks and other equipment for offensive purposes.

Officials said seizure of these ships has increased our transporting ability tremendously. Fourteen of the larger vessels seized will transport at one time about forty thousand troops. The American merchant fleet available at present can carry only about half that number.

Provision of the treaty of London and The Hague convention, scrapped by the belligerents during the war, will not bind the United States, it was officially indicated today.

In case of doubt, general principles of international law will obtain on this government's conduct. The state department holds today it would be manifestly unfair to have one side adhere to the conventions while the other utterly disregarded them.

Many of The Hague conventions are not in effect at all. As for the treaty of London, England signed it but never ratified it, and a move by ex-Secretary of State Bryan at the start of the war to have the treaty observed by all nations, failed.

America's First Act of War

New York, April 6.—United States armed forces seized all German ships in all American ports today.

It was America's first act of war.

In ports on every coast of the United States proper, and in island possessions, marines or bluejackets went aboard the enemy ships early today, made members of the German crews prisoners and took possession of the vessels in the name of the United States.

At Hoboken, N. J., alone, 18 vessels, including the giant Vaterland, were taken over. In all, 27 ships were seized in New York waters.

The total number of German ships in American waters, which were seized is 91. They represent a total gross tonnage of 594,696.

From Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Wilmington, San Francisco and other ports came reports during the morning of the seizure of ships. No trouble was reported. In every instance, marines or bluejackets were armed, waiting and ready for the

signal to take over the ships. This signal was word that the house had passed the war resolution.

Destroyer on Watch.

In New York harbor a long, gray war painted destroyer waited anxiously on the water, just off the bow of the giant Vaterland. Her guns were trained on the enemy sea monster.

The buoy launch of Collector of the Port Malone churned the waters of the bay as he hastened on his early morning enterprise. All night long he had waited for the order to seize the ships. His deputies—by scores—were on the docks and piers in Hoboken, New York and at Staten Island. When the word came the waiting men hurried aboard. The German sailors were ordered to pack their belongings and were hurried away to Ellis Island. The same scenes were enacted at other ports.

In all cases the enemy sailors were sent to the immigration stations, some later being released on parole.

Third Oregon Is Now In Regular Army Service

Vancouver Barracks, Wash., April 6.—Fully 24 hours of schedule time, the initial muster of the Third Oregon Infantry companies at this post was completed yesterday, and the 11 companies here, almost at any point, are ready to entrain for any point at a moment's notice. While no one can tell when the troops will be ordered to leave, it is expected that an order will be received soon for the two battalions stationed here to entrain for some unknown point, or points. Passes were not allowed to night, it being rumored that orders might be received.

The post was a busy place yesterday, perhaps the busiest since the troops were here, in an effort to get the 2,900 men examined and mustered and in shape to respond to any order that might be sent by the western department for the movement of troops.

Colonel McAlexander Acts.

At 10 o'clock, Lieutenant Colonel U. G. McAlexander, in person mustered the Second Battalion, including Companies E, in command of Captain Clarence Hotchkiss; Company F, in command of Captain Libby; Company G, in command of Captain Blanchard, and Company H, in command of Captain Peroni. The battalion, all Portland troops, is in command of Major Mosberger.

At 3 p. m. yesterday, the headquarters company, composed of the band and mounted detachment, 53 men, was mustered, in command of Captain Logus.

The sanitary troops, medical officers, under Major M. C. Marcellini; the supply company, Captain Henry Heckenjos; the machine-gun company, Captain Ivers, and field and staff, Colonel John L. May, Lieutenant-Colonel Carlo Abrams; Major Dougherty, Major Hoshberger; First Lieutenant L. H. Compton, and Lieutenant Pillsbury, were mustered at the same time.

Others Muster Friday.

This, with the exception of Companies A, B and D, which left here two days ago, completes the initial muster of the Third Oregon. These three companies were mustered at 9 o'clock this morning, wherever they may be stationed.

The Third Oregon is ready and 24 hours ahead of time.

It is supposed that in case of the Second and Third Battalions are ordered away for duty, that the headquarters and auxiliary companies mentioned above will remain here in the post. Company C is guarding the North Bank and the Columbia river highway bridges in Vancouver.

For several months the regiment has not accepted married men for enlistment, though there are some married men, not to exceed five per cent of the enlisted strength. Those who have been married since the call to the colors have taken the oath that they are single men, and in case of marriage

Thrilling Scenes in House Preceding the Vote on War

Washington, April 6.—A woman furnished the most dramatic scene of the most dramatic session in the history of this nation's house of representatives.

The woman is Miss Jeanette Rankin, of Montana—the first woman ever to sit in either body of the country's legislature.

The house passed the historic resolution that says Germany has warred upon this government, amid stirring scenes at 3:08 this morning.

The vote—373 to 50—was not unexpected, after the thrilling declaration of Representative Claude E. Rhea, North Carolina, democratic floor leader, in the afternoon that he could not bring himself to vote the country into war.

Kitchin's speech swung a dozen or more votes to the ranks of those opposing the resolution.

When the long, but always thrilling debate had at last been concluded, a stillness that seldom marks house proceedings settled over the chamber. Then there was a stir in the galleries. The members, too, began to shift about a moment.

225 Made Speeches

The clerk drew out the list of names, recording members' votes. Two hundred and twenty five members had addressed the house.

Peace advocates had met war advocates, man for man, until midnight. Then the tension almost reached the snapping point. Perspiration dripped

from members' foreheads. Suddenly a motion was made to reach an agreement by 12 or let the matter go over until Saturday or Monday. It never reached a vote.

As Good Friday was ushered in, the house seemed as far from a vote as at 10 o'clock Thursday. Cries of "vote, vote," arose from all sides. Debate had been limited to five minutes, but names of those who wished to speak kept piling on the list.

At 1:30 a. m. Representative Britten, Illinois, introduced an amendment to the bill that would have prohibited use of American troops in Europe. Debate, which has been repeated two and three times during the day, switched to this.

At 2:05 o'clock, after speeches had been repeated and repeated, the break came when Representative McGee, New York, announced:

Out Out the Talk

"The house is ready for a vote. I shall ask that any remarks be extended to the record, instead of reading them and thereby save time."

A dozen followed suit. Majority Leader Kitchin asked that it lay over until Saturday. The motion was defeated. Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee asked that the committee of the whole go into a house session and take up the question.

The house then immediately proceeded to take up Britten's amendment.

ABE MARTIN

There's few things in this life that equal th' sensation o' bein' paid up. Edna May has left th' stage, but is still at Palm Beach.

