AUSTRIA SEVERS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES; WAR DECLARATION EXPECTED; SHIPS IN PORTS HERE SEIZED

AUSTRIAN VESSELS IN SEVERAL PORTS OF U. S. ARE TAKEN

Break in Diplomatic Relations is Followed Immediately by Seizures of Craft in American Harbors—Eight Steamers Are Taken by Government Officials—No Resistance by Crews in Harbors

Incident to the announcement today that the Austrian government had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States, its ships in American ports were seized by government officials.

The crew of the Austrian vessel "Nayla," which had entered New York Harbor in February, was taken aboard by the police yesterday. It was said that some of the men were arrested for desertion from the Austrian army.

The "Nayla," which had been reported missing, was last seen near the harbor of New York City. It was said that the ship had crossed the harbor several times and that it was unable to continue its voyage.

The Austrian government, in a statement issued today, stated that it had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States because of the declaration of war by the United States against Germany.

The government also stated that it had withdrawn its representatives from the United States and that it would no longer recognize American jurisdiction in its territory."