

## U. S. WILL NOT RECOGNIZE MEDIATION UNTIL GERMANY ABANDONS UTTERNESS ON SEA

### Hikers Held Here Are Believed German Spies

#### SUBJECTS OF KAISER THOUGHT TO BELONG TO ORGANIZED BAND

Agents of Department of Justice Cause Arrest of Walter Wanderwell and Hugo Coutandin, Registered Here

Agents of the department of justice who caused the arrest in Atlanta Wednesday of two German youths, armed with cameras and carrying the flag of Germany concealed in knapsacks wrapped on the outside with the Stars and Stripes, are said to be working on the theory that the pair are members of an organized band of Germans who have been tramping through the coast cities of the United States within the past two years under the guise of world hikers.

The theory is substantiated by photographs and newspaper clippings found in the prisoners' effects. The photographs show the two men, first with one hiker and then another, the total number of hikers pictured mounting up to a dozen or more. The newspaper clippings show that at one time the hikers claimed to be walking for a wager, at another for their health, again because they were interned German sailors and could not leave the country. One clipping described a couple, man and woman, as being on their honeymoon.

This evidence is contradictory at many points to the story told by the two Germans under arrest in Atlanta. One of their main points—the statement that one of them is a Frenchman and the other a German—is denied by two certificates giving both their birthplaces in Germany.

This is not the first time that suspicion has turned toward world hikers who put in their appearance here. Atlanta in common with many cities of the United States, has been visited frequently of late by khaki-clad, sun-tanned strangers who made directly for the newspaper offices and with a great show of frankness, exhibited papers in proof of their statements that they were walking from coast to coast, or trotting around the world, or going from Chicago to New Orleans, for wagers of thousands of dollars.

Not infrequently have these breezy gentlemen carried kodaks on their arms and it has been remarked as significant that they were most often seen in cities on or near the seaboard. The stories they told made "good copy" for the newspapers. Nearly all of them had escaped from Mexican bandits and had made Panama City in person.

It was known that the department of justice was keeping track of the movements of several of these hikers, so it came as no surprise Wednesday when two of them had scarcely set foot in Atlanta, before they were arrested.

**STILL GOOD FRIENDS.**  
In accordance with the hikers' custom, the pair presented themselves at The Journal office Wednesday afternoon. One of them gave the name of Walter Wanderwell. He said he was a member of the Wandervogel, a German walking club, had set out from Posen, Germany, the summer before the war began, to tramp 175,000 miles for a wager of 15,000 marks.

His companion, he said, was his time-keeper, Hugo Coutandin, born in Posen, Germany. Wanderwell stressed the point that while he himself was a German, Coutandin was a Frenchman, and they were still "guter freunden." Wanderwell did all the talking; Coutandin merely nodded acquiescence.

The department of justice was informed of their presence in the city and they were arrested Wednesday night at the Young Men's Christian association on Luckie street, where they had engaged rooms. Held at police headquarters on the charge of suspicion, they stuck to their story Thursday.

But in the meantime government agents, examining their baggage, were picking flaws right and left in their statement and accumulating a mass of evidence on the theory that an organized band was at work throughout the country.

So tightly packed were the Germans' papers that they made two small bundles, but outside the various postcards, clippings, albums and papers were unbound, they made enough to fill a good-sized trunk.

First were the knapsacks. The American flag was wound around each, but inside were ribbons of red, white and black, and flags emblazoned with the imperial government's shield. Each contained a camera and a roll of film.

**WHAT PAPERS SHOW.**  
Among the most important papers were applications for naturalization. Wanderwell gave his name as Pleszynski, the name under which he registered at police station.

His application was taken out July 8, 1915, before William F. Schneider, clerk of the supreme court of New York. He described himself as a Valerian Johannes Pleszynski, nineteen years old; occupation, ship's quartermaster; residence, New York City, where he came from Hamburg, Germany, on board the tramp steamer, Clumber Hall; last foreign residence, Posen, Germany; last

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#### AMERICAN RELIEF STORES IN FRANCE USED BY GERMANS

People Living in Evacuated Territory Tell Many Stories of Hardships—Charge Teutons Used Relief Supplies

(WAR CORRESPONDENTS' HEADQUARTERS WITH BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Wednesday, March 21.—From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)—"We would have starved if it had not been for the American relief commission," declared a French woman in the city hall of Neale today to the correspondent, speaking for herself and her two little children, their pallid faces and high cheek bones giving evidence of their privations.

Wherever one went in the territory recently evacuated by the Germans the same story was repeated. There are many other stories of hardships being told, although most of the inhabitants said the German soldiers had been well disciplined and kept strictly under control.

It was repeatedly asserted, however, that within the past few weeks the Germans had appropriated some of the American relief stores to their own use, even three-fourths of the supplies. It was also said that the Germans took the white flour, issuing black flour instead to the inhabitants.

Some of the peasants encountered in the evacuated territory were joyous at their liberation. Others appeared to have their spirits broken. Their attitude was one of absolute submission to anything that might happen. Many young children who had seen nothing but German soldiers in their lives stared today in almost stupid wonder at the British Tommies.

**HOMES BROKEN UP.**  
One of the greatest ordeals the people said they had to endure was to stand by and see their homes broken up by the Germans as the soldiers were leaving. In some instances the French inhabitants who had been held virtually as prisoners during the German occupation had been segregated in certain parts of the villages while the work of destruction was going on elsewhere. At Rouy, however, it was stated and reiterated by scores of persons that the inhabitants of this village and of several other villages had been gathered at Rouy-le-Petit in certain houses and told to remain in them a certain number of hours while the Germans got away.

While so herded together, they declared, the Germans had sent 200 shells into the village, killing several persons. The funerals which were in progress in the village today lent color to the story. People in other villages also assert that they distinctly heard this firing and thought a battle was in progress.

It was pitiful to motor today through villages which had been far from the firing line and untouched by any shells and yet were lying in absolute ruins. Active steps are being taken by both the British and the French to relieve the people in the liberated zone. About the only persons seen are old men, women and children. Boys who had attained the age of 16 years or more since the German occupation and men who were considered over the military age by the French were taken off by the Germans for work behind their lines.

#### NAVY SHORT 13,514 MEN; RECRUITING IS SPEEDED UP

Efforts Are Redoubled to Bring Number Up to Authorized Enlistment

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, March 22.—The navy is short 13,514 men of its present authorized strength of 74,500 and efforts to speed up recruiting are being redoubled. This month has been the largest recruitment on record, with a net increase of 1,947. Since congress authorized the 74,500 total in September, 5,454 men have been added to the navy's personnel.

It was stated today that the authorized strength is sufficient to put all ships immediately available in commission and no effort will be spared in bringing the force to that figure.

To induce recruiting congress provided that 100 enlisted men a year should be selected by examination for appointment to the naval academy. Navy officials say that a very high type of officer material is being secured in this fashion.

The way the commissions in the marine corps and the responsible and well-paid positions as warrant or petty officers is also being opened as fully as possible to boys who enlist.

A recruit need serve only one year in the navy to be eligible for examination for appointment to Annapolis and instruction to enable him to pass every possible opportunity for study the examination is furnished aboard the ships or at the training stations.

#### DEBATE ON BONE-DRY PROHIBITION IS BEGUN IN HOUSE AND SENATE

Test Vote in Upper Assembly Shows Big Majority in Favor of Most Drastic Law Possible

Debate began in both houses of the general assembly Thursday morning on Governor Harris' bill designed to make Georgia as bone-dry as the Sahara desert.

The bill was read for the third time in the senate after its final revision by the temperance committee and then was taken up section by section. A test vote taken shortly after debate began showed that the senate is overwhelmingly in favor of a drastic law.

In the house the bill was reported by the temperance committee of thirty-five members shortly after 11 o'clock. With the bill was filed a minority report, signed by six members of the committee, denouncing the bill as an outrage and an unconstitutional invasion of personal rights.

The house began its discussion with a lengthy argument as to whether the amendments to the bill should be printed separately or with the bill as a perfected document.

**TEST IN SENATE.**  
The test vote in the senate, on a motion which would allow a bona-fide citizen of the state to personally transport one quart of liquor each month into the state for his own personal use, was voted down by the majority of 28 to 11, clearly indicating the sentiment of the senate as favoring the adoption of a drastic bone-dry law, as drawn up in the governor's bone-dry bill.

Senator Turner, himself a strong prohibitionist, believing he said, that the will of the people was not in favor of a too-drastic law, proposed the amendment which was voted down so overwhelmingly.

When the senate convened Thursday morning at 9 o'clock to read for a third time the bone-dry bill after its final revision by the temperance committee, Senator Turner offered an amendment to the first section of the bill.

His amendment was the signal for verbal fireworks to begin. He proposed that every bona-fide citizen of the state should be allowed to bring into the state, once each month, by his own hand, one quart of any kind of firewater for his own family or personal use, to be kept in the family cupboard or behind the door.

Senator Turner said that he wished to make this amendment effective because he believed that the people of the state did not wish such a drastic law as the one proposed to be enacted by passing the governor's bone-dry bill. He said that while he had always been a staunch prohibitionist, he believed that a citizen should be allowed this privilege.

When the senator touched upon the theory so often advanced that a too-drastic law might bring on a reaction which would result in the eventual repudiation of the bill and a return to the legalized sale of whisky, he was immediately challenged by a large group of his colleagues who declared that it was an absolutely airtight, hermetically sealed bone-dry bill.

Several senators said that Mr. Turner's resolution would provide a loophole for the wily, and that in effect it would break the effect of a bone-dry law which, they declared, the legislature had been convened expressly to enact.

The senate is taking the governor's bone-dry bill up section by section, and discussing and shaping it as they proceed.

**PROHIBITION COMMISSIONER.**  
Following the defeat of Senator Turner's motion, Senator Boykin renewed his efforts to have the office of prohibition commissioner, which had been stricken by the senate temperance committee after it had been included in the bone-dry bill.

Senator Boykin introduced an amendment providing for the office of prohibition commissioner to be created, with the restriction that the commissioner was to be merely a keeper of records and reports from sheriffs, etc., and this amendment provoked a hot debate.

Among the senators opposing the creation of such an office was Senator McLaughlin. He based his opposition on the grounds that to have such a state-house officer would be an unwarranted reflection upon judges, solicitors and sheriffs throughout the state.

Again, the senator said in speaking against such an office, the present occupant of the gubernatorial seat called a special session of the legislature in 1915 and had enacted what he judged to be a drastic prohibition law. When he next went to the polls he was defeated. Senator McLaughlin said, as well as other officers who were extremists in their views on prohibition. This, he said, was a clear indication that the people did not wish a drastic bone-dry law.

If such an office was created, he said, even with the prohibition commissioner short of all power, the position would eventually be separate from that of the commissioner of commerce and labor (who was to be ex-officio commissioner of

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### BELIEVED THE KAISER WILL AGAIN TRY TO EMBARRASS WILSON

Washington Officials Hear That a European Neutral Will Soon Offer to Mediate Between U. S. and Germany

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, March 22.—Offers of mediation, to prevent actual war between the United States and Germany, are expected among the next developments. Administration officials heard today that a European neutral was contemplating such a plan, and they frankly regarded it as another effort, backed by Germany, to divide sentiment in congress and embarrass the president.

It was declared authoritatively today that no proposals of mediation or for discussion will be considered unless Germany first abandons the campaign of ruthlessness.

All administration officials from the president down take the position that the United States never has, and does not now, desire war with Germany, but is being forced into it to protect lives and rights of its citizens against unlawful aggression.

Unless Germany is prepared to completely change her position, it was declared today, offers of mediation and discussion are useless. Germany, it was recalled, never accepted former Secretary Bryan's proposal to sign one of his "peace investigation" treaties which would have bound the United States to inaction for a year, while a commission investigated the situation.

The two organizations met jointly in the large convention hall of the Ansley hotel and the senator was greeted by an audience that packed the hall and rose to tremendous heights of enthusiasm when he spoke with patriotic pride of the game of battle which America will soon take up in behalf of democracy and free institutions.

The convention hall was profusely decorated with American flags, and there were small American flags at every place and the guests were each presented with a silk American flag kerchief, which they rose and waved in response to Senator Smith's appeal for united support of President Wilson in the grave crisis now confronting him.

**FLAGS ON STORES.**  
Previous to the opening of Senator Smith's address, Colonel Frederic J. Paxton struck a responsive chord when he declared:

"Dr. H. Alford Porter, pastor of the Second Baptist church, asked me today if the United States would permit him to nail an American flag back of the pulpit and keep it there. I told him I could not speak for the congregation, but as for me he could go as far as he liked. I want now to make this proposal: Let every retail merchant in Atlanta display the flag and keep it displayed."

The suggestion was unanimously and enthusiastically indorsed and a committee was appointed to lay it before the merchants, composed of the following: Colonel Frederic J. Paxton, W. W. Orr, president of the Atlanta Retail Merchants' association; Cecil M. J. M. Van Hartling.

Seated at the table with Senator Smith were a number of prominent Atlantians including Ivan E. Allen, president of the Atlanta chamber of commerce, and Captain A. J. McBride, Jr., commanding Battery B, Atlanta artillery, which recently returned from service on the Mexican border.

The senator's address was as follows: "While our government was pressing Great Britain upon this subject the Germans lawlessly sank the Lusitania and murdered a number of American citizens. There are elements of excuse in the case of the Lusitania growing out of the fact that the attack by Germany was upon a British vessel. Our government endeavored by diplomacy to obtain redress and prevent occurrences of similar acts. But for the inexcusable act of Germany, Great Britain would have been compelled to recognize all of the neutral rights of the United States."

**GERMANY FORCED ACTION.**  
The attention, however, of our government was withdrawn from the issue with Great Britain to the protection of human lives. It was in the name of Germany, for a while it seemed that Germany would respect at least the lives of American citizens upon the ocean and our government was giving its most urgent efforts towards bringing the war to an end. It was in the name of these efforts on our part that Germany announced her purpose to establish a war zone around her enemies and to destroy all property and lives of all neutrals entering that zone. Under these circumstances the president properly severed diplomatic relations with Germany, hoping thereby to make the Kaiser realize that he was about to force his country into war with the United States.

"It is difficult now to see how war can be avoided. Only the declaration by Germany of a purpose to abandon at once the present submarine warfare on

Germany May Declare War on U. S. at Once

LONDON, March 22.—According to private telegrams from Berlin to the Amsterdam Bourse, it is expected that a state of war with the United States will be an accomplished fact within twenty-four hours, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Amsterdam.

German journalists in Berlin, the dispatch adds, "have been warned to this effect by the foreign office."

### French Drive Wedge in German Line in West

#### HOKE SMITH SEES WAR WITH GERMANY ON A HUGE SCALE

It Will Involve Expenditure of Billions, Full Use of Navy and Training of a Great Army, He Declares

That war between the United States and Germany is certain, that it will not be war against the German people, but against the German Kaiser and his murderous submarines; that for the United States it will not be a paper war, but war on a prodigious scale involving the expenditure of billions of dollars and full use of the navy and the training of an army of perhaps two million men, were some of the predictions made by Senator Hoke Smith Thursday in an address to the Atlanta Retail Merchants' association on the subject of foreign relations.

The senator was greeted by an audience that packed the hall and rose to tremendous heights of enthusiasm when he spoke with patriotic pride of the game of battle which America will soon take up in behalf of democracy and free institutions.

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#### GERMAN RETREAT IS CALLED SUCCESS BY BERLIN WRITER

Major Morahit Says It Has Shortened Line and Puts New Difficulties in Way of the Allies

(By Associated Press.)  
BERLIN, March 19.—(Via Sayville, March 22.)—"A German success," is the characterization given the German retreat on the western front in the headline of an editorial today by Major Morahit, military writer for the Lokai Anzeiger.

"A great resolution was taken," writes Major Morahit. "The boldness of the general who carried it out is overwhelming and only the power of Von Hindenburg's personality could cause such proof of the grand style of initiative to be accompanied by perfect calm and security."

"That the plan of a strategic shortening of the front was brought into being at great headquarters and that it succeeded must give joy to every German heart and simultaneously give rise to a feeling of satisfaction when the hostile war aims are remembered. For now the opportunity is offered to inflict more damage upon the enemy in future days than could be inflicted upon him at the moment during a sanguinary defensive."

"Although people are often mistaken as to their surmises regarding Von Hindenburg's actions, the critics on all sides who look somewhat deeper into things admit that the Germans will obtain economic advantage, an improvement of the front and a gain of time by this move."

"The British, however, must again begin the preparation of their offensive. Their heavy artillery must be moved ahead with enormous pains. Roads and bridges must be constructed, often under hostile fire. Ammunition transport will be possible only in a very slow fashion. The condition of the ground is so unfavorable that the movement of troops and the provisioning of the troops and observation work."

"They will reproach us with the charge that we acted like the Russians in Poland. As to this France may cite accounts with England. The law of our warfare is and will be that everything necessary and possible in a military way will be done in this defensive war."

Whether the population of the war theater suffered more through our measures or the enemy's measures may be asked them in the time to come."

**Body of Girl Found in River; Young Man Held**

TEMPLE, Tex., March 22.—The body of Emma Staley, twenty, a popular young girl of a farming community near Temple, was found in a badly decomposed condition in the Leon river near Belton yesterday morning. The body was not identified until today and an hour later officers arrested Will Porter, twenty-five, who lives near the Staley home.

Indications were that the body had been in the water four or five days. The young girl's feet were bound tightly together with baling wire and a veil wound tightly about her face and head also was bound with wire. A ledger found in her body gave the first clue to identification and it is said that statements therein led to Porter's arrest.

Neutral vessels and the proffer of fullest reparation could prevent it.

"We may well rejoice that war has been delayed until the present time. Now we will not be co-operating with a czar, but with the free people of Russia."

"Our internal conditions are prepared easily to bear the strain. Our navy is vastly improved."

**NOT A PAPER WAR.**  
"But no one should suppose it will be a paper war. Our nation must carry a full part, and our people will give unstinted support."

"The war will not be conducted against the German people. It will be against the murderous submarines, against the Kaiser and the war lords of Prussia. A German democracy will find the United States ready for peace. May it soon come."

"War places its heaviest burdens upon the masses of the people. With the rule of the people established in Russia and Germany, the danger of future wars will be greatly lessened, and we may look forward to world-wide continuous peace."

Senator Smith dwelling upon the part we would take in the war said that with no certainty could this subject be presented. "We will no doubt extend to the English and French governments financial aid which would help them bear the strain which now rests upon them," said the senator. "We will place innumerable submarine destroyers in the war zone, clearing out a safe road for our vessels. We will be called upon to watch the shores of this hemisphere and protect shipping on this side of the ocean from the German attacks. We will no doubt summon a large number of men to camp and train them for any emergency which might call for their use. It will take from six to twelve months to put men in shape for field service."

"We will no doubt take whatever steps are necessary to place the whole power of our nation in the struggle, to the end that the war lords of Germany may be driven from power and the German people be free to peacefully control their own affairs."

#### RETREATING TEUTONS HALT AND DESPERATE CONFLICT IS OPENED

Two Mighty Armies Are Fighting in the Open and Greatest Battle in History Is Expected to Be the Result

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, March 22.—French troops are in contact with the main German army and what may prove to be the initial stage of the greatest battle of history has opened before the gates of La Fere.

For the first time since the great German retreat began patrol and rear guard fighting has given way to the thunder of artillery and the clash of major forces. The Germans are making a stand on a line running north and south of La Fere, from St. Simon to the forest of Coucy, a distance roughly estimated at about twenty miles.

The position selected by the Germans is protected by the Crozat canal and the Ailette river, a tributary of the Oise, but in this line the French have driven a great wedge directly in front of La Fere and reaching to within two miles of that important town.

On this wedge is based the hopes of French military critics that General Nivelle has outmaneuvered Field Marshal von Hindenburg and that La Fere is doomed and with it the whole of the famous Hindenburg line. Paris believes that the extraordinary speed with which the French have advanced has disconcerted the German plans and renders probable a continuation of the retreat to the Belgian frontier. The official Berlin reports throw no light on the situation, but it seems certain that a few days or even hours must decide the fate of La Fere.

The situation on the British front is somewhat more obscure owing to the rather vague character of the British official reports. The latest reports from London say that General Haig has pushed ten miles east of the Somme at some points. Measured from Peronne, this would place the British within four or five miles from the vital point of St. Quentin and this estimate is supported by unofficial dispatches from the front. The German retreat is pivoting from their positions east of Arras and in this pivotal region General Haig reports steady progress, but no localities are mentioned which might give a clue to the relative importance of the advance.

Apparently the spasmodic fighting in the Champagne and Verdun sections has ceased, for the time being at least, but important news comes from another and far distant field of the world war. The Russians, driving forward from Persia, have crossed the Mesopotamian border at the Taurus mountains and are continuing their advance from Kermanshah in support of the British advance from Bagdad. This means that the retreating Turks are being menaced from three sides and, according to allied military observers, are threatened by a greater disaster than even the loss of Bagdad.

What may prove to be the opening of a German offensive on the Russian front is reported in today's Russian official statements.

The German attack was delivered toward the northern end of the front, in the region southeast of Vilna, almost directly east of Lida. The Russian position there was breached, but afterward the Germans were driven on of a village they had occupied. A portion of the positions, however, remained in their hands.

The Berlin official statement reports this move as a raid in force and does not mention the retention of any ground gained. The Russian position was penetrated as far as the second line, it is declared, and the raiders returned with 225 prisoners, two guns, six machine guns and other booty.

The German statement also reports a revival of activity on the Rumanian front, with the armies of Archduke Joseph and Feld Marshal von Mackensen. Petrograd speaks of Teutonic activity in the region of Fakhani, along the line in southern Moldavia. The aerial and artillery arms of the service are intensely busy here, as if in preparation for an infantry movement.

In the Pacific fighting on the Franco-British front a prince of the Prussian royal house apparently has been killed or captured. Berlin reports that an airplane which was piloted by Prince Friedrich Karl, a cousin of the German emperor, failed to return from a raid over the British lines between Arras and Peronne.

**Philadelphia Girl, 22, Enlists in U. S. Navy**

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 22. Miss Loretta Walsh, of this city, said to be the first woman to enlist in the United States navy under the new order of Secretary Daniels admitting women to the navy, enrolled here yesterday. She was designated as chief yeoman and assigned to open a recruiting station here. Miss Walsh is twenty-two years old.

More than 100 men, most of them skilled mechanics, applied for enlistment in the newly-organized naval coast defense reserve.