

TORPEDO FIRED AT PASSENGER LINER ON THE HIGH SEAS

German Submarine Attempts to Sink Steamship Orduna Sixteen Hours Out of the Port of Liverpool.

SHOT MISSES BY TEN YARDS

Another Boat Comes to Surface and Fires Several Shells, None of Which Hit the Ship.

CAUSES SHOCK AT WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, July 17.—The British passenger liner Orduna, with 227 passengers aboard, twenty-one of whom were Americans, was attacked without warning by a German submarine at 6 o'clock in the morning of July 9, sixteen hours out of Liverpool, on its way to New York. Announcement of the attack was made by the ship's captain, Thomas McComb Taylor, and passengers when the Orduna reached here today.

A torpedo was fired at the steamer and missed it by ten yards. Twenty minutes later a submarine rose to the surface, possibly a different submarine from the one that launched the torpedo, and for half an hour thereafter pursued the steamer, firing shells, which whistled over the decks above the heads of passengers standing there with their life belts on.

Ten minutes before the attack a sailing ship with two American flags painted on its side was seen ahead. Captain Taylor became suspicious of this craft and began maneuvering his ship. Then came the attack, the first warning of which was the streak of a torpedo which came through the water and missed the Orduna's bow by ten yards or thereabouts.

Passengers Awakened. Stewards ran below and aroused the passengers. With clothes hurriedly fastened haphazard they made for the upper deck. There they were assembled near the bridge. Life belts were adjusted and lifeboats swung out. The crew stood ready to launch the boats from a submarine off the starboard quarter. The captain came a shell which kicked up a miniature geyser in the Orduna's wake. The submarine had the range.

Captain Taylor turned the stern of the ship toward the assailant and ordered full speed ahead. Within two to five minutes another shell, this time passing over the heads of the assembled passengers, was fired. As it overtook the ship its path was marked by a rising volume of water.

Several Shells Fired. A third shell passed overhead and so close that it seemed to clip a lifeboat. Captain Taylor ordered the passengers to go to a lower deck. They obeyed and the lifeboats were adjusted lower still so that the passengers might slip into them without delay. The steamer continued, shots falling about the vessel at intervals of from half an hour to one hour. For about half an hour the submarine pursued the liner with the span of water between them widening each minute. Seven shots were fired in all. Four of them passed over the decks. The other three fell close to the ship. Then the submarine, distanced, gave up the chase.

There were twenty-one Americans on board the Orduna when the attack was made without a preliminary warning. William O. Thompson of Chicago, counsel for the industrial relations commission of the United States, was another of the Orduna's passengers who saw the attack on that vessel. He declared that he would write a protest to Washington setting forth the details of the attack.

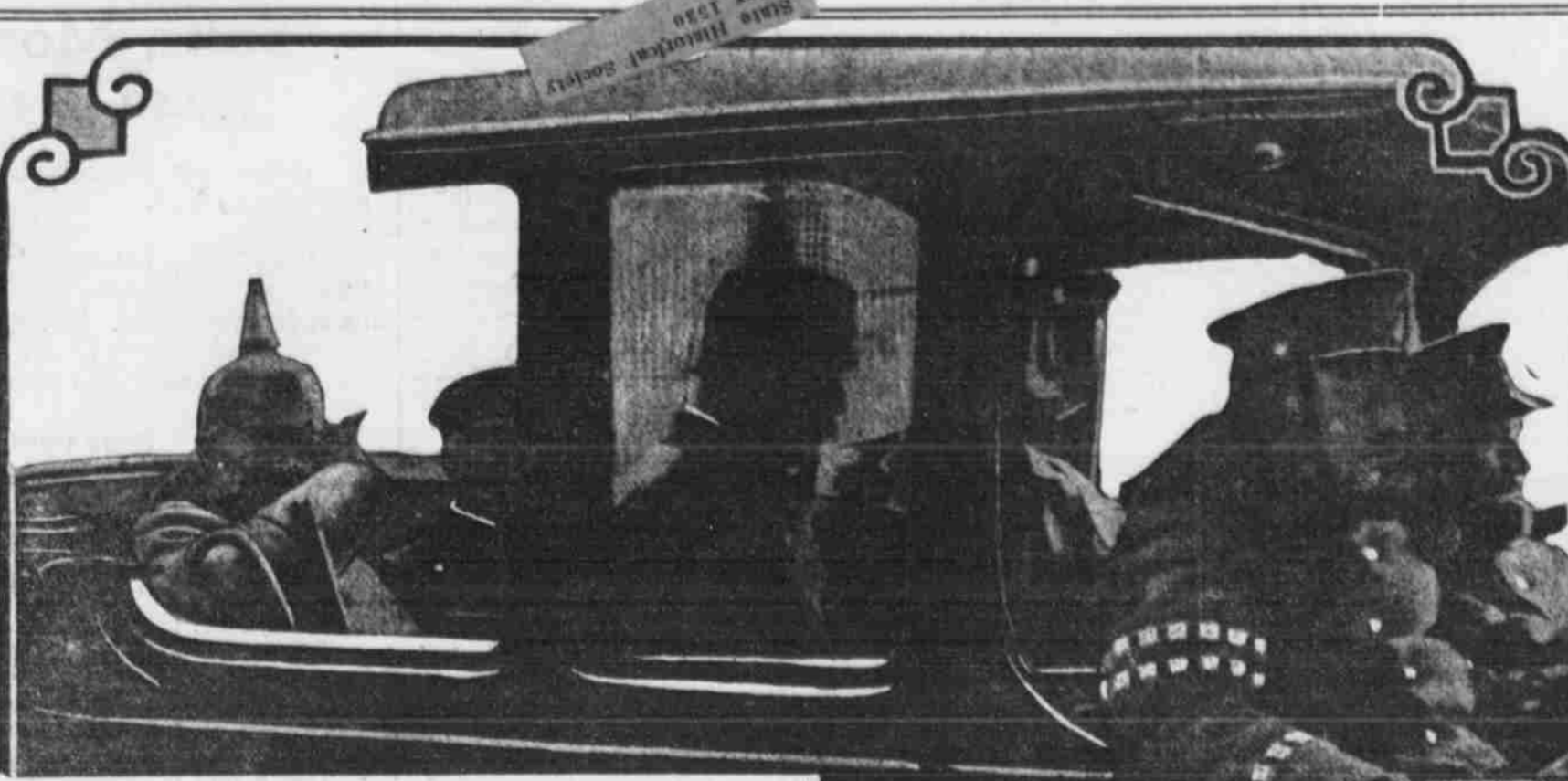
Danish Baron Witnesses Attack. The early risers who had left their berths to enjoy the fine morning were with the captain on the bridge when the attack began. Among them was Baron Marcus Rosenkrantz of Denmark, who married Miss Reble Loewe of Atlanta. Ga. The baron was with him on the trip, but did not witness the attack.

"Ask the passengers what happened," Captain Taylor said, when the Orduna docked here today. "I am attached to the royal naval reserve and therefore cannot discuss the matter. Ask Baron Rosenkrantz; he saw the whole thing." "But there is one question, Captain Taylor, that you can answer, and you, alone. Were you attacked without warning?" "I did not have even the slightest warning of the attack," he replied. "Beyond that I will say nothing."

Baron Rosenkrantz, one of a group with the captain on the bridge, described the attack in detail. "We left Liverpool about 2:30 o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday, July 9," he said. "At 5:55 o'clock by my watch the first missile, a torpedo, was fired. "A few minutes before that point we saw a small sailing ship just ahead of us. It had two American flags painted on its side that was turned to us. It was broadside to us and seemed to be

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LATEST PHOTO OF KAISER WILHELM.—The emperor rides constantly in his automobile from one battle front to the other. He is here saluting on his departure from the headquarters of General von Heeringen. His Brother, Prince Henry, occupies the seat with him.



FORD TO EMPLOY 300 MEN IN OMAHA

New Plant to Be Six Stories High and to Cover Practically Entire Block.

TO BE BUILT BY APRIL 1

A six-story building of reinforced concrete and covering eventually practically a block of ground, is to be built by the Ford Motor company, beginning September 1 on the block between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets and between Isard and Cumming. This is to be the new assembling plant of the Ford company where the parts of the cars are received and set up for distribution.

While this has been hinted at for some weeks, it has been kept somewhat under cover while negotiations for the purchase of the ground were in progress, as other cities were bidders for the plant, and competition was keen.

Price Paid \$105,000. The price paid by the Ford people for this entire block was \$105,000. The negotiations were conducted and the deal closed through Fred C. Shields of Omaha, who has been a whole year at work obtaining the necessary options and concluding the negotiations. The various lots on the block were owned by seven different persons, some of them residing far from Omaha. In some cases a single lot was divided among two owners which made the negotiations still more difficult and complicated.

The owners of the property who have now sold to the Ford people were Mrs. Margaret McDermott, the Brynmawr college, Byron Reed company, Mrs. Josie McCulloch of California, Jerry Leary, Simon Adler & David Sherman and Mrs. Emily T. Blake.

To Employ Three Hundred Men. This new Ford assembling plant is to employ between 300 and 400 men. The building is to be six stories high of reinforced concrete. It is planned that it shall be completed and ready for occupancy by April 1.

While much of the ground in this block is vacant, there are several buildings that will have to be moved before the excavation for the new plant can begin. Adler & Sherman where they conduct their business of handling second-hand iron and metal, Jerry Leary has a residence on his lot, where he has lived for years and is now living. The Adler & Sherman place is to be moved across the street, and Mr. Leary is to move to another residence at Twenty-fifth and Burdette streets.

The money was paid for the ground by the Ford people Saturday, the deeds were delivered and are to be filed early this week.

Important Deal. Real estate men look upon this as one of the most important transactions that has taken place in Omaha for some years. Mr. Shields, while he has negotiated for some months on the matter, has kept the work remarkably well under cover while the deal was on. Real estate men say this transaction will give a remarkable boom to that immediate section of North Sixteenth street.

N. A. Hawkins, commercial manager for the Ford Motor company, was in Omaha about two months ago and dropped a remark that the plant here should be enlarged and that there really should be an assembling plant here. Mr. Gould, the local manager, estimates that this branch will sell 18,875 cars next year. The territory for this branch is the east three-quarters of Nebraska and ten counties in Iowa.

Man is Killed by Explosion in Mine SWITZERLAND PROHIBITS ALL EXPORTS OF GOLD PARIS, July 17.—The Swiss federal council has decided to prohibit the exportation of gold in any form, says a Havas dispatch from Bern. Another Havas dispatch from Bern states that the editor of a newspaper at Neuchâtel, France, now occupied by the Germans, has been ordered before a court-martial for publishing an article in which he violently attacked Germany.

GERMAN SINGERS HERE THIS WEEK

Twenty-Sixth National Saengerfest of the Saengerbund of Northwest Starts Wednesday.

ALL OMAHA IN GALA DRESS

Swiftly now the plans of many months are coming to a focus as the hour draws near for the twenty-sixth national saengerfest of the Saengerbund of the northwest, which will open in Omaha next Wednesday and continue for the rest of the week.

Some people who were not right "up" on big current events have wondered what the electric lights were being strung all along both sides of the principal streets for. "It's too early for Ak-Sar-Ben yet," they said. Correct. But it is not too early for the decorations in honor of the saengerfest, which will bring thousands of visitors to Omaha from all over the west. And that is the reason for the elaborate electrical decorations which are being strung about Omaha.

Court House Decorated. The court house and other public buildings have already put on their festive dresses of flags and bunting. The Auditorium, both inside and outside, is dressed with colors. Inside the black, white and red of the faterland and the red, white and blue of the "son-land" are very much in evidence from the boxes, which display big editions of the star spangled banner up to the topmost heights of the ceiling, where Old Glory and the German ensign ripple, surrounded by scores of pennants of many kinds.

All this decoration is under the direction of no less a person than Gus Rense, chief keeper of the wardrobe for King Ak-Sar-Ben. Moreover, the decoration of Omaha has but not begun. The first three days of this week will see hundreds of yards of bunting and hundreds of flags displayed from innumerable buildings downtown as well as from many homes. By the time the special trains bringing in the singers Wednesday morning the city will be in such gala array as it has not seen for a long time.

Sets for Grand Chorus. The noise of hammers and saws has filled the Auditorium now for more than a week. There R. C. Strehlow, vice president and contractor of big and wide experience, is superintending a gang of carmen, in charge of a large crew.

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How The Bee's Milk and Ice Fund Does Its Saving Work for the Tots

"I wonder how much we think of the 'short and simple annals of the poor' as we go on our happy, contented, well-cared-for ways," said one of the faithful young women who disburse The Bee's free ice and milk fund among the really deserving poor of Omaha.

"If the people could see what we see, my, my, how it would open their hearts!" "Coming into such close touch with the people, we know just which cases are deserving and which are not. And so much of this Bee fund as we distribute goes exclusively to the deserving. When one knows for actual certainty that a family has struggled and strained every muscle and nerve to try to make ends meet and still has been beaten down by misfortune, then it is a real pleasure to help."

"One family that we are helping just now consists of a father and mother and two children, aged 2 and 4 years. "This father was always a good provider and a steady worker until he was stricken blind some time ago. "Then the brave mother leaped into the breach. She got work in a laundry and from early morning till late at night she struggled, far beyond her strength. No one cent of aid would she accept. She is a brave, proud woman and by her own toil she kept that little family together, earning a little with much toil. Her husband, in his blindness, managed to do the housework."

"They would have continued this way, but illness overtook the mother. The strain was too great. The doctor told her she must positively stop work. "Then The Bee's fund found more work to do. And such a work! If those who have contributed to this fund could just see what their money is accomplishing for that family alone they would feel amply repaid. If they could see the

World's Wheat Area Shows Increase of More Than Ten Million Acres

WASHINGTON, July 17.—War ravages apparently have not turned the European wheat fields to battlefields as extensively as generally was supposed, according to figures announced today and gathered by the Department of Agriculture. No figures are available from Germany or Russia, but in Germany the acreage probably has been increased and Russia's acreage probably is still the world's largest.

"But in the countries of the northern hemisphere where wheat ordinarily approximates 240,000,000 acres, eight show estimated plantings of 18,525,000 acres, against 16,525,000 acres last year. The conclusion is that despite the apparent billion-bushel crop in the United States, the farmers of other countries have been spurred into efforts to increase their own production.

Russia's area during the last few years has averaged 60,000,000 acres. The United States now comes second with 56,417,000 acres, an increase of 11 per cent over last year. British India has 52,148,000 acres, against 53,464,000 last year. France has 14,142,000 acres, not including wheat area in the region occupied by Germany, which in 1914 amounted to 800,170 acres, against 15,045,000 last year. Canada's acreage increased from 10,223,000 acres to 12,385,000; Italy has 12,528,000, an increase of 6.3 per cent; Spain, 7,784,000, an increase of 1.1 per cent; Hungary (proper), has 3,105,000, against 3,233,000 last year; Romania, 4,805,000, against 5,215,000 last year; Denmark shows a slight decrease; Great Britain, 10 per cent; Luxembourg, 7 per cent increase; Switzerland, 10.1 per cent increase; Japan, 1 per cent decrease.

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Thaw Spending Day at Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., July 17.—Harry K. Thaw's first night of real freedom in years was spent in restful sleep at a beach front hotel here. After yesterday's weary ride down the state of New York, where he was released on bail, Thaw was much refreshed and prepared to spend the day quietly. He remained out of sight early in the day and took breakfast in his room. The dining room of the hotel was crowded with guests, many of whom prolonged their meal, hoping to see him.

So far as could be learned Thaw has formed no definite plans for the immediate future except to get as much rest as he can. The length of his stay here is not known, but it is believed he will go to his home in Pittsburgh in a few days.

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The Bee's Fund for Free Milk and Ice

Most of the contributions to the fund have been from individuals. In other cities many clubs, social gatherings and societies take up collections for such purpose and put in the proceeds in the club's name.

Why not in Omaha? Contributions from 10 cents to \$5 are solicited and will be acknowledged in this column. Previously acknowledged: \$125.00 Benjamin B. Baker..... 5.00 A. Zick..... 1.00

tears in that little woman's eyes. If they could feel the silent handshake of that father, too overcome for words, if they could see those little ones growing strong with the pure, cool milk that the dime and dollars are supplying, they would feel the glow of a good deed well done. "Not for one cent does this family ask. And they are so thankful. Every day they thank us. Every day the mother expresses the belief that soon she will be able to go back to work. The father is too planning to learn chair caning and other things. 'And I'll be able to earn enough to support us all even if I haven't eyes,' he says. "A brave little family and I don't know what would have become of them if it hadn't been for the good people that provided the money of The Bee fund."

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CLEAN BILL GIVEN CREW OF LUSITANIA

Finding of British Board of Inquiry Causes Indignation Among the American Survivors.

FINDING IS DISTINCT SURPRISE

LONDON, July 17.—"Torpedoes fired by a submarine of German nationality caused the loss of the steamship Lusitania and its passengers," according to the findings of the court of inquiry appointed to investigate the disaster.

The court held that no blame for the tragedy attached either to Captain Turner, commander of the vessel, or the Cunard line, the owners. "After having carefully inquired into the circumstances of the disaster," says the formal report of the court, "the court finds the loss of said ship and lives was due to damage caused the ship by torpedoes fired by a submarine of German nationality.

In the opinion of the court the act was done not merely with the intention of sinking the ship, but also with the intention of destroying the lives of the people on board."

Clean Bill for All. Other salient features of the report are that the lifeboat and lifebelt facilities were adequate; that the demeanor of the crew was above all blame and that the conduct of the passengers, barring a slight panic when the straggling passengers came on deck, was praiseworthy.

The court also found that the ship was unarmed and carried a cargo of general ammunition, consisting only of 5,000 cases of cartridges, from which there was no explosion.

A small gathering composed almost entirely of survivors of the Lusitania and their relatives listened to the reading of the findings by Baron Mersey of Texteth. Americans Are Indignant.

The report was a distinct disappointment to the American survivors, who expressed indignation at the portion which exonerated Captain Turner and the Cunard line from all blame and commended the discipline of the crew.

Several attorneys representing American clients listened closely to the reading of the judgment, which may have a great effect on actions brought against the steamship company.

Among the spectators were Walter Webb-Ware, representing the Vanderbilt family; Major F. Warren Pearl and Mrs. Pearl of New York and P. B. Jenkins of Chicago, survivors, and William Critchton of New York, whose wife was lost.

Before the reading began Major Pearl expressed the opinion that the decision would sharply condemn the officers of the ship and of the Cunard line for negligence.

"No doubt there were mishaps in handling the ropes of the boats," Lord Mersey said, "but in my opinion there was no incompetence or neglect."

The reduction of the Lusitania's speed from twenty-four and one-half to twenty-one knots still left the vessel faster than any other boat on the Atlantic, said Baron Mersey, and he found there was no reason to blame the Cunard company for this economy during war time.

U. S. Submarine Has Cruising Radius of Six Thousand Miles

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., July 17.—Simon Lake, the inventor and states government, was gratified today by the success of an experiment testing the new submarine G-3, which demonstrated that the new boat can cross the Atlantic ocean and return without stopping, having a cruising radius of 6,000 miles.

"It is perfectly practicable for the G-3, with its new engines, to cross the ocean, do what it went to do and come back without dependence on any base of supplies," said Mr. Lake. "It is merely a question of the economy of fuel."

The G-3 was built by the Lake Torpedo Boat company of this city. Its extensive cruising radius is due to the efficiency of a new Swiss engine, which drives the boat both on the surface and under water, replacing both the gasoline engines heretofore used to drive submarine craft on the surface and the electric motor used for undersea travel.

In a series of tests, consisting of trips up and down the length of Long Island sound, the new boat showed a speed of 14.7 knots on the surface and 10.7 knots submerged. It cost \$450,000.

The G-3 is only 160 feet long, but seven new Lake submarines which are being constructed for the United States navy will be 392 feet long and possess a much greater radius of activity than the G-3. They will use the new engine, and Mr. Lake said today they would be the equal of any in the German navy.

WASHINGTON, July 17.—Frank Weinschenk, who for some time has been conducting what he calls an international information bureau and sending out pro-German literature to newspapers, was arrested here last night on complaint that he sent certain letters to officials. He was committed to the government hospital for the insane for observation. Weinschenk said his home was in Topoka, Kan.

Large Bequest to Yale is Released

NEW HAVEN, Conn., July 17.—A bequest of \$750,000 to Yale university, which has been held up by long litigation in an appeal from the probate will of Mary C. Hotchkiss, now goes to the university. The supreme court of errors today found no error in the lower court's finding in allowing the bequest to go to Yale.

ALABAMA ANTI-TIPPING BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR

MONTOOMERY, Ala., July 17.—Governor Henderson today vetoed the anti-tipping bill on the ground that he did not believe the law could be enforced and that its constitutionality was doubtful.

TEUTONS MAKING GREAT DRIVE AT SEAPORT OF RIGA

Russian City on Baltic is Objective of New Move Intended to Destroy the Armies of the Czar.

FIGHTING ALONG NEW LINE

Muscovites Making Strenuous Efforts to Stay Rush Toward Great Strategic Metropolis.

GERMAN GAIN IN WEST SLIGHT

LONDON, July 17.—A new German offensive of huge proportions, with Riga, a great Russian seaport and the seat of the governor general of the Baltic provinces as its objective, is revealed in the latest official statements issued at Petrograd and Berlin.

Military experts here construe the offensive to be a vast envelopment in which the Germans are making a great effort to destroy the Russian army.

Both the German and Russian communications agree that the German forces are at the Windau river near Goldingen, which is only eighty miles from Riga, the great strategic commercial metropolis in the Gulf of Riga and on the upper Baltic.

An official statement received this morning from Petrograd adds details of sanguinary fighting all along the new line in efforts to hold back the German advance, which now is being concentrated on Riga and on Warsaw, while the Austro-Hungarians are moving northward from the Dniester river.

Trail of Destruction. Advice reaching London today say that the Germans left a trail of destruction along the Baltic sea from Memel to Libau, where the villas, hotels and casinos are said to have been destroyed about the only exception, it is said, being the palace of the Polish nobleman whose cousin married an American woman. The palace now is being used as a military headquarters in which Prince Henry of Prussia and Field Marshal von Hindenburg recently conferred on the new offensive toward Riga.

The Crown Prince Frederick William's drive in the Argonne forest now is accepted as a small success, in gaining a few hundred yards of terrain, but as failure in attaining its real object—a decisive penetration of the French line.

Welsh Strike Is Danger Point. The ominous attitude of the Welsh coal (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

The Day's War News

RUSSIAN LINES ARE HOLDING WELL immediately north of Warsaw, where the greatest force of the Teutonic move against the Polish capital is being exerted, according to the latest statement from Petrograd. A withdrawal of the Russian forces between the Pines and the palace of the Polish nobleman is giving signs of renewed activity in pursuance of the assumed plan of the Teutonic forces to attack simultaneously all along the 800-mile front from Baltic to Bessarabia. Unofficial reports through Geneva declare that at the lower end of this line Austrian troops who crossed the Danube have been driven back to the other bank, where their retreat is being turned into a rout.

FIGHTING ON THE AUSTRO-ITALIAN FRONTIER has resulted in few recent changes of positions, according to latest reports from Rome. Numerous attacks by the Austrians on the Italian advanced positions are recorded, all of which are declared to have been repulsed.

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The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Sunday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and Vicinity Unsettled tonight and Sunday, with showers; cooler Sunday.

Temperature at Omaha— Hours, Deg. 5 a. m. 70 6 a. m. 69 7 a. m. 73 8 a. m. 78 9 a. m. 80 10 a. m. 81 11 a. m. 82 12 m. 84