

# AMERICAN TORPEDO BOAT SUNK WITH 87 MEN ABOARD

## FIERCE BLIZZARD SWEEPS OVER HALIFAX CITY AND DEATH LIST GROWS RAPIDLY

Injured Dying From Exposure to Pitiless Storm; Food Growing Scarce; Fuel and Building Material Lacking; Relief Trains Stalled in Deep Snow; Telegraph Wires Down.

### BULLETINS.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 8.—An estimate of 4,000 persons dead in the Halifax disaster is contained in a private telegram received from the stricken city today by an undertaking firm here. The message asks that 4,000 coffins be sent to Halifax at once.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—Men of the naval forces dragged the water front today and recovered the bodies of 200 sailors, soldiers and workmen.

### BLINDING SNOWSTORM.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 8.—A blinding "north country" snowstorm, accompanying a gale that at times attained a velocity of more than 40 miles an hour, had held this city of desolation in its grasp for the last twenty-four hours, adding new terrors to the awestricken survivors of Thursday's disaster. Meanwhile many relief trains, hurrying here from the United States and Dominion cities with their urgently needed supplies, are reported snow-bound, with the time of their arrival problematical.

With every building in Halifax and Dartmouth more or less damaged by the explosion and fire, men, women and children huddled together as best they could and passed a night of suffering. The chilling wind whistled through smashed windows; there were scarcely blankets enough to cover wounded bodies, and many were unable to obtain food. Fires were almost out of the question and the only lights obtainable were from oil lamps or candles.

Out of the chaotic conditions rich and poor have rallied gallantly to their duty of caring for the injured and homeless and accounting for the dead. The citizens' finance committee estimates that there are 20,000 destitute people in the devastated area, the majority of them from the poorer classes. Nearly 4,000 dwelling houses were destroyed, the committee declares, and the actual losses and the estimated cost of temporary maintenance will approximate \$30,000,000.

The sufferings of those who escaped injury have been increased by the fact that every available blanket, quilt and comfort has been requisitioned for the hundreds of injured in the temporary hospitals. Many of these are so gravely wounded that they only hope lie in the best of care. Serious fears are felt that cold, shock and exposure will result in an outbreak of pneumonia.

Communication Threatened. A single telegraph wire, bending dangerously in the storm, offered Halifax only a precarious means of communication with the outside world and it was feared momentarily that this line would snap. Telegraph and telephone companies are making desperate efforts to provide makeshift service and the work is beset with great difficulties.

While many generous offers of material relief have been received and train loads of supplies are on the way, the spectre of famine was abroad tonight, for if the storm continues, it may seriously interfere with railroad traffic. There is enough food on hand for immediate needs, but it will last only a short time, unless additional supplies are received.

As the day wore on the immensity of the disaster increased rather than diminished. Hundreds of bodies were taken to the morgues and rescue squads were constantly finding new victims buried under tons of debris until the blizzard forced them to cease work. There is every reason to believe that many more will be recovered.

Perhaps the most serious of the (Continued on Page Twelve—Column Six)

## The Weather

For Nebraska—Snow; colder. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Deg.
5 a. m.	-12
6 a. m.	-12
7 a. m.	-12
8 a. m.	-13
9 a. m.	-12
10 a. m.	-9
11 a. m.	-6
12 m.	-2
1 p. m.	1
2 p. m.	4
3 p. m.	4
4 p. m.	4
5 p. m.	4
6 p. m.	4
7 p. m.	4

Comparative Local Record	
Highest yesterday	5 31 49 37
Lowest yesterday	-14 19 35 28
Mean temperature	48 35 42 30
Precipitation	.00 .00 .00 .24
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal	
Normal temperature	30
Deficiency for the day	18
Total deficiency since March 1, 1917	284
Normal precipitation	0.63 inches
Deficiency for the day	0.63 inches
Total deficiency since March 1, 1917	7.04 inches
Deficiency for corresponding period, 1916	12.56 inches
Deficiency for corresponding period, 1915	1.82 inches
Deficiency below zero	
W. A. WALSH, Meteorologist.	

## WAR ON AUSTRIA BY U. S. COMES IN TIME FOR ITALY

When Congress Voted Declaration and Wilson Signed it Italians Received Moral Support.

### BULLETIN.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The central powers are developing on the Italian front the maximum military effort of the war, according to a cable dispatch received here today from Rome. Italian aviators report continual concentration of Austro-Germans, who are streaming over all roads leading to the Asiago plateau, where desperate fighting still is raging.

After three days of terrible fighting, in which entire detachments of Italian troops sacrificed themselves, the Austro-Germans, the dispatch said, succeeding in eliminating the arch which constituted the Italian foremost line of defense in the eastern side of the plateau.

### ASIAGO HARD PRESSED.

(By Associated Press.) America's declaration of war on Austria-Hungary comes at a moment when the Italian northern front between Asiago and the Brenta is being hard pressed by an Austro-German army under Field Marshal Conrad von Hoebendorf.

In four days the invading Austro-Germans have forced the Italians back an average of three miles on a 10-mile front. In addition to losing Monte Sisemol, three miles east of Asiago, the Italians, according to Berlin, have given up 4,000 additional prisoners.

### TAKE MORE PRISONERS.

Although superiority in numbers and artillery has forced the Italians to retreat, the defense line has not been broken and there is yet 10 miles of mountain country to fight through before the foothills around Bassano are reached.

### Lull at Cambrai.

There is a lull in the fighting around Cambrai and the Germans have made no attacks in force against the new British positions.

Hebron, southwest of Jerusalem, has been captured by British forces. It is reported that all American citizens in Jerusalem, probably all Jews, have been removed from the city.

### Guns are silent and soldiers are idle along the entire length of the eastern front from the Baltic to the Black sea, the Roumanians, under the force of circumstances, having joined the Russians in their armistic negotiations with the central powers.

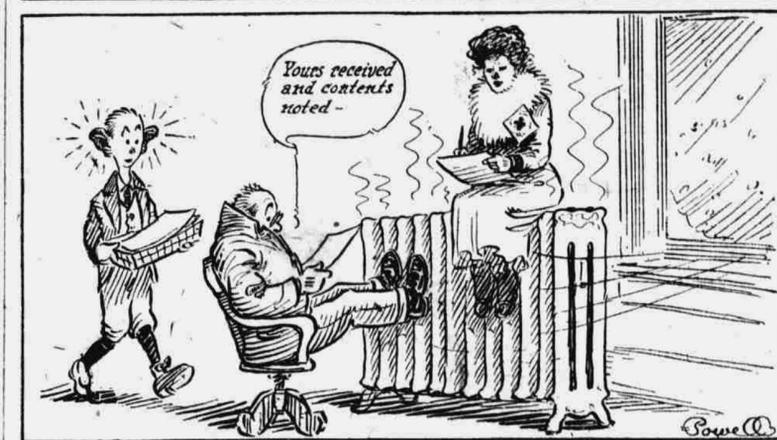
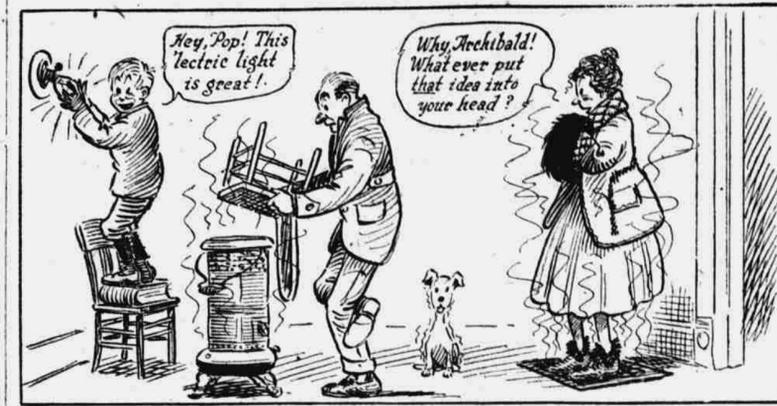
### Take Vladivostok.

Meanwhile it is reported that 1,500 Bolsheviki troops have arrived at Vladivostok. Whether these came from Petrograd or are units from Siberian towns is not disclosed. Vladivostok holds much war material and other supplies shipped from the United States, Japan and other allied countries.

## Keep Seats During National Anthem; Are Taken From Theater

Because they didn't rise while the "Star-Spangled Banner" was being played at the Orpheum theater two young men were taken in charge by federal authorities Friday afternoon. J. A. Robinson, 209 South Twenty-fifth street, and N. Ansell, 215 South Twenty-fifth street, were seated in the orchestra section of the theater. When the strains of the national anthem rang out everybody rose except these two. "Slackers!" hissed some women behind them. This epithet "got their British up" and they resolved to "see it through." When some men tried to jerk them to their feet they resisted. Attendants interfered. But the crowd wouldn't

## 'Steen Below Zero



## GERMAN AIRMEN FIGHT WITH ALLIES OVER SWISS CITY

Fleeing, Enter Switzerland, Drop Bombs, Are Fired on and Continue Toward Alsace.

### GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, Friday, Dec. 7.

The first aerial battle between allied and German airmen over Swiss territory occurred around Basle today. It appears that the Germans, hard pressed by their opponents, intentionally entered Switzerland. The fight took place at a great height and the number of the airplanes is not known. The encounter lasted twenty minutes. Seven bombs were dropped on Swiss territory, but only material damage resulted.

Eventually the airmen sped toward Alsace, still fighting, while Swiss soldiers bombarded both parties with shells from anti-aircraft guns. The residents of Basle and the neighboring territory are indignant over the violation of Switzerland's neutrality.

## PORTUGAL TORN BY REVOLUTION IN ITS CAPITAL

Madrid, Dec. 8.—A revolution has broken out in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, according to a dispatch received here by way of Oporto and Tuy. Outbreaks also are said to have occurred at Oporto.

## Commission Will Not Open Alaska Transportation Matter

Washington, Dec. 8.—The Interstate Commerce commission today declined to reopen the Alaska transportation investigation, as had been requested by James Wickersham, former Alaskan representative in Congress, acting on behalf of a number of independent coal operators.

Mr. Wickersham alleged that certain Alaskan railroads maintained discriminatory rates against independent coal interests and interfered with proper development of the country. He asked that the investigation be resumed and that the commission modify its former decision that Alaskan rates were justified.

## Three Killed in Explosion At Big Buffalo Plant

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 8.—An explosion occurred this afternoon at the plant of Atlas Steel Casting company in Elmwood avenue. Telephone messages from nearby factories said three workmen in the plant were dead and that several probably were fatally injured.

## NEARLY 4 THOUSAND DOLLARS TAG DAY FOR DENTAL FUND

Between \$3,000 and \$4,000 is the estimated return on dental dispensary day campaign for funds yesterday. The work continued until late last night.

## BOLSHEVIKI NOW REPUDIATE ALL FOREIGN LOANS

Prepare Decree Affecting Borrowings by Land Banks and Railways on Government Guarantees.

London, Dec. 8.—The Bolsheviki government, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd, is preparing a decree repudiating all Russian foreign loans and loans concluded by land banks and railways on government guarantees. Shares of internal loans held abroad also will be repudiated.

## A. D. Melvin, Famous Expert Veterinarian, Dies at Capital

Washington, Dec. 8.—Dr. A. D. Melvin, chief of the bureau of animal industry and well known to the country as the government's foremost figure in combating foot and mouth disease and other diseases of cattle, died at his home here last night of pulmonary hemorrhage. He was 55 years old.

## Ex-Czar's Guards Disarmed By Bolsheviki's Leaders

London, Dec. 8.—The guards surrounding Nicholas Romanoff, the former Russian emperor, near Tobolsk, Siberia, have been disarmed by Bolsheviki soldiers and sailors, according to advices received in Petrograd and forwarded to the Exchange Telegraph company. The Bolsheviki leaders intend to remove Nicholas to some other place, fearing he might be lynched.

The temporary independent government in Siberia has chosen former Premier Kerensky as minister of justice. General Korniloff is reported to have joined General Kaledines, the Cossack leader, around whom most of the leaders of the old provisional government have gathered.

## California Bank Robbed.

Culver City, Cal., Dec. 8.—Two men, pretending to be making a motion picture, held up and robbed the Culver City Commercial and Savings bank today and escaped with \$10,000. Culver City is near Los Angeles.

## OMAHA HALF-WAY STATION ON AIR ROUTE OVER U. S.

Two Adjacent Army Posts Are Logical Sites for Proposed Postal Aeroplane Stations; Commercial Club Acts.

Postal airplanes, carrying mail from coast to coast after the war, will probably alight enroute at Forts Omaha and Crook to get supplies of gasoline and have machines overhauled. While the government has not yet taken official action on this, it has been mentioned in official and semi-official dispatches that Omaha is seriously considered the half-way station in this contemplated transcontinental air route.

The Commercial club of Omaha has been alive to the situation and has lost no opportunity to aid the government for months past in acquiring by lease or purchase much ground adjacent to the government reservations at the two forts. Already over 100 acres has been added, principally by lease, to the old Fort Omaha reservation. All this has been done since the balloon school has been established there. A big observation tower has been established on part of this leased ground at Fort Omaha. The ground is to be used for the balloon school during the period of the war.

Fort Crook already has large areas of beautiful, lying ground, which, it has been pointed out, would make excellent aviation fields, especially for the alighting and starting of transcontinental flyers. Here, too, the Commercial club has been lending every assistance in an effort to bring about the improvements to make this a great and important military post during the war.

Omaha is centrally located, with reference to the east and west coast on a line the great postal flyers will follow when they begin carrying the United States mail with terrific speed across the continent, after the actual war activities have ceased, and thousands of highly specialized aviators. With Omaha already considered as a half-way station for this great fleet of aerial couriers, Fort Omaha and Fort Crook immediately leap into the limelight as the logical fields for the stations.

### Work With Government.

"We have not been unmindful of these possibilities in the future in our work with the government to help acquire additional ground for these posts during the period of the war," said Commissioner Robert H. Manley of the Commercial club.

For some time the Commercial club has worked diligently with the Metropolitan Water District of Omaha, to get a larger main laid to Fort Crook so as to insure abundant water supply to make Fort Crook a permanent government post. The promise has now been obtained from the water board that a main capable of carrying 100,000 gallons daily will be laid if the post is selected as the location for one of the reconstruction hospitals now being considered.

## FIRST U. S. WARSHIP FALLS VICTIM TO ENEMY SUBMARINE

Thirty-Seven Survivors Taken Off One Life Raft; Attacked While on Patrol Duty Between 400 and 500 Miles Out; Greatest Loss to Navy in the War.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The American destroyer, Jacob Jones, was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone on Thursday, with the loss of a large part of its crew.

The destroyer is supposed to have been sunk by a German U-boat.

## OMAHA SHIVERS AS MERCURY DIPS WAY BELOW ZERO

Coldest Weather of Winter to Date Extends Over Wide Territory; 13 Below at 8 A. M.

SOME COLD SPOTS.	
Pierre, S. D.	-10
Charles City, Ia.	-11
N. Platte, Neb.	-8
Des Moines, Ia.	-14
St. Paul, Minn.	-16
Duluth, Minn.	-20
Sioux City, Ia.	-14
Millers Falls, Minn.	-16
Valentine, Neb.	-22
Kansas City, Mo.	-16
Williston, N. D.	-28
Amarillo, Tex.	0
Bismarck, N. D.	-23
Omaha	-13

Omaha shivered yesterday morning in the coldest weather of the winter, so far. The official thermometer at the weather bureau touched 13 degrees below zero at 8 a. m. It rose slowly through the day, but the cold snap is not over yet. At 7 o'clock last night the thermometer registered 1 degree above zero, with indications of a fall during the night. The weather prediction was for colder weather today.

The cold wave extends over a large spread of territory. Zero weather prevails even as far south as Oklahoma and northern Texas and freezing temperatures as far as northern Alabama and Georgia. To the north the weather is colder than here, North Dakota reporting as low as 28 degrees below zero.

### Fall of 26 Degrees.

Temperatures in the central west fell as much as 40 degrees in the 24 hours ending at 7 a. m. today. The fall at Omaha was 26 degrees in that period, from 13 above to 13 below.

While the present temperature is about 30 degrees below normal for this time of the year, Omaha has had some similar cold snaps in the last few winters. On December 21, 1916, a minimum of 14 below zero was reached. In January, 1917, temperatures of zero or below were registered for five days.

According to the report to the railroads, Ericson was the coldest spot in the state. There the temperature went to 20 degrees below zero. It was 17 below at O'Neill and Burwell, 15 below at Fremont, Lyons, Schuyler, Ashland, Plattsmouth and Central City.

### Cold in Dakotas.

In the southern part of the state and well up toward the central sections temperatures ranged from 5 to 10 below, with slightly colder in the northern part. Over the north line and at Winner, S. D., the mercury dropped to 20 below.

In the extreme western portions temperatures ranged from 10 above to 10 degrees below, with much warmer in Wyoming. Sheridan and Lander reported 20 and Casper 15 degrees above.

The railroads reported light snow flurries during the night and clear and calm weather. No stock losses are reported.

On account of the cold generally trains were running late, the engines being unable to make steam. Passenger trains were 30 minutes late to an hour behind schedules, with freights off one to two hours and in some instances much more.

Trains were sent out as usual and those carrying perishable stuff taking every precaution to prevent the contents of the cars from freezing.

### Cold at Norfolk.

Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 8.—The lowest temperatures on record for this time of the year are being reported today in Norfolk and vicinity and in southern South Dakota. Two inches of snow fell over this region yesterday and was followed last night by a sudden drop in temperature which reached a mark of 30 degrees below zero at Phillip, S. D., according to reports from that place today. Winner, Dallas and Gregory, S. D., reported 20 degrees below zero, with like reports from Long Pine and Stuart, Neb. In Norfolk and vicinity the temperature was recorded at 14 degrees below zero and at Lincoln 12 degrees below.

The extreme cold handicapped train service severely and most trains were running from one to two hours behind schedule.

The surgeon general's department has been officially notified of this action.

### DETAILS MEAGER.

Vice Admiral Sims, up to a late hour had been able to supply only meager details in reply to urgent messages from Secretary Daniels whose brother-in-law, Lieutenant Commander David W. Bagley, commanded the lost vessel and was reported among the missing. Three officers and 34 men were picked up by other vessels from life rafts to which they clung, but the names of only 10 of these had been transmitted to Washington.

### THIRTY-SEVEN RESCUED.

The names of the 10 survivors reported are:

- Lieutenant John K. Richards.
- Ensign Nelson N. Gates.
- Assistant Surgeon L. L. Adamkiewicz.
- Charles E. Pierce, fireman.
- Timothy Edward Twomey, seaman.
- John C. Johnson, seaman.
- Henry A. Stutzke, chief machinist's mate.
- Edward F. Grady, fireman, second class.
- John J. Mulvaney, seaman.
- Myron Flood, seaman.

### ON PATROL DUTY.

The Jacob Jones, one of the largest and newest American submarine chasers of her type operating in the Atlantic, was the first American warship to fall a victim to a German submarine, but was the second American destroyer to be lost in foreign waters. The Chaucance sank, with her commander, Lieutenant-Commander Walter E. Reno, two other officers and 18 enlisted men after being cut in two by the transport Rose, early on the morning of November 20.

Admiral Sims' terse message reporting the loss of the Jacob Jones did not state how the attack was made. It is known, however, that the Jones was on patrol duty between 400 and 500 miles off shore. What vessels accompanied it was not revealed, but Admiral Sims' report showed that one vessel rescued 30 men and another seven. They sent this information by radio and it was immediately transmitted to Washington.

### Hope For Other Rescues.

Secretary Daniels stoutly held to his hopes that other patrol craft, possibly without wireless equipment, had rescued more of the destroyer's company. Mr. Daniels showed plainly the strain of his personal anxiety as well as that over this, the greatest loss to the navy thus far in the war. Commander Bagley's mother has lived for several years at the secretary's home. With her daughter, Mrs. Daniels, she was stunned by the news of the disaster. Another of her sons, Ensign Worth Bagley, was the only American naval officer killed in the war with Spain. He, too, died on a destroyer, being killed by a shell aboard the Winslow in the attack on Cardenas, Cuba, in April, 1898.

The Jacob Jones' peace time complement was five officers, five petty officers and 87 men. It was one of the newest and largest of American destroyers, with a displacement of (Continued on Page 12, Column One.)

## German Airman's Bomb Injures Two Americans

With the American Army in France, Dec. 8.—A bomb dropped by a German aviator during a recent flight at night struck in the street of a town through which two American aviation mechanics, one from Detroit, Mich., and the other from Buffalo, Mo., were passing.

The Detroit man was wounded in the shoulder and the Missourian's nose was broken and he received other injuries to the face. At the same time an ambulance driver from Hannibal, Mo., was struck on the back by a flying brick. The three men are in a base hospital and their condition is reported as not serious.

## ECUADOR BREAKS WITH GERMANY

Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dec. 8.—Ecuador has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, according to an official announcement made by the government today.

### Steamer Sunk in Collision.

Havrø, Dec. 8.—The Belgian steamship Ambiorix, 1,444 tons gross, has been sunk in the English channel. Its loss was caused by a collision with the Norwegian steamship Primo. The crew of the Ambiorix was brought in by patrol boats. The Primo's bow was damaged.