

THE RUSSIAN BLACK SEA FLEET AGAIN HAMMERING AT FORTS ON THE BOSPHORUS

ENEMY'S SUBMARINES SINK 2 STEAMERS HUNDRED AND FIFTY LIVES LOST

The Falaba and Agula Torpedoed—Tried to Escape but Were Overtaken and Attacked—Crews and Passengers Given Only Few Minutes to Escape—Explosion on One Steamer Killed Several of Passengers—Trawler Succeeds in Rescuing Occupants of Three of Agula's Boats.

London, March 29.—Upwards of 150 lives were lost in the sinking by German submarines of the African liner Falaba and the British steamer Agula, bound from Liverpool for Lisbon.

The Falaba, which was torpedoed in St. George's Channel Sunday afternoon, carried a crew of 90 and about 150 passengers, and of this total only 140 were rescued. Of those rescued eight died later from exposure.

The Agula had a crew of 42, and three passengers, and of these 23 of the crew and all the passengers were lost.

In both cases, on sighting the submarine, the captains tried to escape by putting on all speed possible, but the underwater craft overtook the steamers, showing that Germany now has some of her most modern submarines engaged in the blockade operations against England.

The captain of the Falaba, who was one of those lost, was given five minutes to get his passengers and crew into the boats, but, according to survivors, before this was possible, a torpedo was fired, striking the engine room and causing a terrible explosion. Many persons were killed, and the steamer sank in ten minutes.

Trawlers which happened to be in the vicinity rescued most of those who were saved; others got away in the boats, which were ready for launching, and which were quickly launched when the order was given to abandon the ship.

Fired on Crew While Getting into Boats.

Those who were still on the steamer when the explosion occurred were thrown into the sea, and it took the fishermen an hour or more to pick up the people in the water who managed to keep themselves afloat.

The Agula was attacked off the Pembroke coast. The submarine, which in this case was the U-28, opened fire with her gun, shells from which killed a woman passenger, the chief engineer, and two of the crew. Even after the crew had commenced to lower the boats, according to the story of the survivors, the Germans kept up their fire, and some of the boats were riddled with bullets.

The captain of the trawler Ottilie, who was the commander of the submarine, told of the sinking of the Agula, went to the rescue and picked up three boats, containing nineteen of the crew. The fourth boat, which contained the other members of the crew, could not be found, and it is presumed that she foundered. On their arrival at Fishguard several of the crew were bandaged, having been wounded by the fire from the submarine.

Another Dutch steamer, the Amstel, of 853 tons, has been blown up by a mine off Flamborough Head.

Falaba's Survivors Number 135.

An official list supplied at the office of the Elder Dempster Steamship Company shows that so far as is known at present, 52 first class passengers, 34 second class passenger and 49 of the crew were saved when the African liner Falaba was torpedoed Sunday afternoon in St. George's Channel by a German submarine.

Four of the passengers and four of the crew are reported killed, and 61 passengers and 43 of the crew are missing.

The survivors relate that the liner was seventy miles to the southwest of Liverpool when the submarine appeared. She called to the captain of the Falaba to heave to, but he ignored the order and promptly started at full speed ahead. The liner was a fast craft and for half an hour the chase was kept up before the submarine overhauled her and compelled her to stop.

The passengers and crew were given five minutes to leave and although this time was very brief, most of the boats were launched before the submarine fired her torpedo. The projectile struck the Falaba in the engine room

and a terrific explosion followed. The ship settled down and sank very quickly. Some of the lifeboats were smashed and scores of people were struggling in the water when a trawler reached the scene and rescued 106 of them, transferring them later to a destroyer.

Thirty-three persons were picked up by a fishing boat. Three of the persons rescued had sustained injuries by German shrapnel and some of the engine room staff of the Falaba were killed.

The skipper of the fishing boat Ellen Emma, which participated in the rescue work, reported that no efforts were made by the crew of the submarine to assist the persons who were struggling in the water. "The Ellen Emma sighted the submarine shortly after noon, her skipper said, and followed the craft for more than hour.

The Elder Dempster Company, owner of the Falaba, which was one of the boats which was lost, announced tonight that apparently about 135 persons had lost their lives by the sinking of the vessel.

Explosion Killed Many.

The Admiralty tonight issued the following statement:

"Twenty-three members of the crew and three passengers are missing from the steamer Agula.

"The steamer Falaba, which also sank, carried a crew of about ninety persons and about 150 passengers. About 140 survivors have been picked up, eight of whom, including the captain, died afterward. It is feared that many persons on the steamer were killed by the explosion of the torpedo.

"The Dutch steamer Amstel, a vessel of 853 tons, when on a passage from Rotterdam to Coole, Eng., struck a mine at 4 a. m., the 29th of March, in a German mine field off Flamborough, Yorkshire, England. The crew has been landed in the Humber by the Grimsby trawler Pinewood."

Unofficial reports received from members of the crew of the Agula were to the effect that only thirteen members of the crew of the steamer had been lost when she was sunk by the German submarine U-28 last Saturday night.

Cardiff, Wales, March 29.—One of the Falaba's passengers, in telling of their experiences, said that when the submarine ordered the passengers to take to the boats, the boats were lowered immediately, and the passengers were served with life belts, but no one was allowed to take any personal effects.

"Then followed a horrible scene," said the passenger. "Some of the boats were swamped, and the occupants were thrown into the sea. Several were drowned almost immediately.

"Barely ten minutes after we received the order to leave the ship I heard a report, and saw the vessel heeled over. The Germans had actually fired a torpedo at her at a range of about one hundred yards, when a large number of passengers, the captain and other officers, were still distinctly to be seen aboard."

All the passengers and officers say that the submarine fired a torpedo before all the boats were lowered and while many persons were still aboard the steamer. One officer said: "I was sitting in a boat which was suspended from the davits, and was waiting for two women passengers, when another officer shouted 'look out,' and then I saw the bubbles marking the track of a torpedo.

"There was a tremendous crash, and the boat fell from the davits and turned over, throwing the passengers and crew into the icy water. The water was frightfully cold, and there were many who died from exposure."

The quartermaster of the Falaba, describing the scene of the destruction of the steamer, said:

"All on board helped splendidly in the rescue work. There were eight women on board. One of them, who hesitated about entering a lifeboat, I threw overboard. There was no time to argue the matter. Luckily she was picked up. Two other women, who

\$150,000 FIRE STARTED BY CIGARETTE

Million Dollar Elevator at Montreal Badly Gutted—Over 3,000 Bales of Hay Stored in Building.

Montreal, March 29.—A cigarette is supposed to have started a fire this afternoon at the Harbor Commissioners million dollar elevator on the waterfront, where three thousand tons of hay in bales were stored, resulting in an estimated loss of about \$50,000 on the hay and about \$100,000 on the building. The loss is covered by insurance.

OFFER \$100,000 TO EQUIP A REGIMENT

Brockville, Ont., Mar. 29.—Mrs. G. T. Fulford, widow of Senator Fulford, and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hardy of Brockville, have made an offer to the Dominion Government of \$100,000 to meet the expenses of equipping a Canadian regiment for overseas service. This was announced here tonight.

NO INCREASE UNTIL AFTER NEXT ELECTION

Ottawa, March 29.—In the Senate today on the government's proposal to increase the Senate membership by 104 by bringing up the western group to 49 members. Senator Bostock, opposition leader, offered the same amendment as last year, that the increase in membership not take place until after the next general election, or at the same time as the Commons redistribution comes into effect.

The amendment was carried by 27 to 16. The tariff resolution was reported from committee without amendment and the \$100,000,000 War Appropriation Bill was given second reading.

AFFECTS OVER THIRTY THOUSAND CHURCHES

Chicago, Mar. 29.—A ruling that the actual physical property of a Methodist church is under the control of the church, and not under the jurisdiction of Methodist church conference, was upheld by the Appellate Court here today.

The decision affects more than thirty-thousand Methodist churches in the United States, the aggregate value of whose real estate holdings is more than \$30,000,000, according to Emil Wetten, of counsel for the church.

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"The scene was awful, with scores of people struggling in the water owing to the overturning of the boats. The submarine was in the midst of them, and I saw at least twenty men on her. They stood and laughed, the brutes.

"Captain Davis was on the liner when she sank. I pulled him into our boat with a boathook. Poor fellow, he was alive then, but he expired immediately afterwards. Our small boat was within twenty yards of the submarine when she fired, and I saw the torpedo and propeller as it shaved us and went on its deadly journey."

OFFICERS OF HEADQUARTERS AND No. 1 SECTION, DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN



The above picture shows the officers of headquarters and No. 1 Section Divisional Ammunition Column, Second Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. The officers are as follows: Back row—Lieut. William Vassie, Lieut. Norman P. McLeod, Lieut. S. K. L. MacDonald and Lieut. T. E. Ryder; second row—Captain V. C. Johnson, Captain and Adjutant W. A. Harrison, Lieut. Col. W. H. Harrison, Captain, G. A. Gamblin, Captain D. F. Pidgeon; front row—Lieut. W. G. Church, C.A.V.C. (Veterinary Officer), and Lieut. W. H. Edgar, A.M.C. (medical officer).

NEW DREADNOUGHTS JOIN RUSSIAN BALTIC FLEET

RUSSIANS ADVANCING INTO HUNGARY—MINE WARFARE CONTINUES IN WEST—NO CHANGE IN EAST GALICIA AND BUCKOWINA.

London, Mar. 29.—Outside the sinking of the steamers Agula and Falaba the only events of importance news of which was received during the day were the renewal of activity by the Russian Black Sea fleet, which bombarded the forts on the Bosphorus, and the announcement from Petrograd that the Baltic fleet had been reinforced by modern fighting units, presumably dreadnoughts which were built in Russian yards.

The battles for the Carpathians are proceeding with ever-increasing violence. The Russians are in complete possession of the western passes, and are advancing into Hungary, but the eastern passes remain in the hands of the German allies, who, however, are being strongly pressed by their reinforced adversaries.

The situation is unchanged in East Galicia and Bukowina. In North Poland the Germans claim to have driven the Russians from Tauraggen, which they stormed.

In the west the mine warfare continues without any important change in the positions of the two armies.

At the request of the ship owners, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer has promised to submit to the cabinet a proposal to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in Great Britain during the war.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S FIRST WAR BUDGET BEFORE THE HOUSE TODAY

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Mar. 29.—Mr. R. W. Grimmer, M.L.A., for Charlotte, is the new member of the public accounts committee of the legislature.

At this evening's session of the House, Premier Clarke presented the report of the nominating committee naming Mr. Grimmer as successor of Mr. Plinder of York, who resigned and the report was adopted.

Most of this evening's session of the legislature was spent in committee discussing the Probate Courts Bill. The legal fraternity in the House monopolized the time and there was considerable discussion on some of the sections, although largely of a technical nature.

Hon. Dr. Landry is to bring down the budget tomorrow and his announcements are being awaited with more than usual interest because of this being the first war time budget in New Brunswick. There will be no war taxes in this province, as in Nova Scotia under the Liberal government's rule, and Hon. Dr. Landry will find much in

DUTCH STEAMER IS TORPEDOED

London, March 29.—A statement from the British Admiralty tonight says that the Dutch steamer Amstel has been blown up by a mine. The Amstel was built in 1906. She was 211 feet long, and registered 495 tons net.

SMALLEST CATCH OF SEALS ON RECORD IS OUTLOOK THIS SEASON

St. John's, Nfld., Mar. 29.—The sealing situation continues unchanged and causes much depression. It is now admitted that the catch will probably be the smallest on record. The weather is exceptionally favorable, and the railway line is entirely free from snow.

SECRECY OF BALLOT PROTECTED IN BILL GIVING SOLDIERS VOTE

Resolution to be Introduced Provides for Defraying Cost in Connection With Taking Vote of Soldiers.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 29.—The three bills reported by a special committee of the House appointed to suggest amendments to the Elections Act and the controverted elections act will appear on the order paper tomorrow. Two of them will no doubt be introduced immediately. The third, which enfranchises the Canadian volunteers, will have to stand over until a resolution of which the government has given notice is considered in committee of the whole and adopted by the House. The resolution reads as follows:

"Resolved, that it is expedient to make provision to enable every male British subject of twenty-one years of age or upwards serving in the military forces of Canada in the present war to exercise his electoral franchise, and that the cost incurred in carrying out the provisions of any act to be based upon this resolution may be paid by the governor-in-council out of any unappropriated moneys in the consolidated revenue fund of Canada."

The resolution is necessary because the proposed bill to enfranchise the soldiers involves the expenditure of public money and must therefore be recommended by the Governor General and approved by the House before legislation is proceeded with. The bill as already announced provides for furnishing the volunteers in Canada, Bermuda and at the front with bal-

ALL RECORDS FOR CANADIAN LOANS IN LONDON BROKEN

Number of Applications Kept Bank of Montreal Busy and Time for Receiving Them Closed Yesterday Morning Instead of Last Night.

London, Mar. 29.—The time for receiving applications for the Canadian loan closed at eleven o'clock this morning, instead of this evening, as might have been done. The applications received beat all previous records for Canadian loans, and kept the Bank of Montreal extremely busy. It is believed that the underwriters will find themselves freed from the undertaking, and that the loan has been over-subscribed. If this proves to be correct a doubting market will be pleasantly surprised.

ATTACK FORTS AT KALID BAHR IN DARDANELLES

Paris, March 29.—A despatch to the Havas Agency, from Athens says a battleship, torpedo boats and mine-sweepers of the allied fleet entered the Dardanelles Saturday and Sunday. Kalid Bahr, which was the objective of the guns of the warships, responded feebly. Sunday afternoon, the correspondent adds, a battleship fired ten shells against the position of Kiritia, on the European side, a short distance up the Straits.

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lots in much the form and shape of the ordinary ballot but instead of the names of the candidates being printed thereon the voter indicates his preference for the government candidate, the opposition candidate or the independent candidate. If any question arises as to who is the government candidate in any particular riding the decision of the Prime Minister shall be final and the leader of the opposition has like powers to determine who is his candidate in case of dispute. Each soldier is entitled to vote in the electoral district where he resided for thirty days before enlisting even though his name is not on the voters' list. Precautions are taken in the statute to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

The first bill above named to amend the elections act extends the hours of polling from 8 to 6 p. m. and requires the employers of labor to give each employee an hour off in addition to the noon hour without deductions of pay on day of election.

Just what will become of the soldiers' vote bill is a matter of speculation, but it seems generally understood that the government will put it through the House by closure if necessary and this put it up to the senate. It is thought by some, however, that the bill may be left on the order paper of the House, if the Liberal members take the responsibility of obstructing its passage on eve of prorogation.