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PROBS—FAIR

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GERMAN FLEET IN BATTLE WITH THE RUSSIANS IN BALTIC GULF OF RIGA

FIFTY-FOUR LIVES NOW THOUGHT TO BE TOLL OF THE ARABIC DISASTER

Two Americans Among Passengers Lost—Forty-five Known Dead and Nine Missing—Grave Concern Regarding Fate of White Star Liner Lapland from New York for Liverpool With Passengers and War Munitions.

London, Aug. 20.—At least five passengers, two of whom were Americans, and forty members of the crew lost their lives when the White Star liner Arabic was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off Fastnet yesterday morning. Nine other passengers are missing and are believed to have perished.

The two Americans who went down with the ship were Mrs. Josephine Bruguiere, of New York, and Edmund T. Woods. The former was thrown into the water and was kept afloat for some time by her son Louis, who was forced to relinquish his hold when he was struck by a piece of wreckage. Nothing was seen of Woods after the steamer was struck.

Most of the missing members of the crew belonged to the engineers staff. They remained at their posts and went down with the ship. Captain Finch and the other officers of the Arabic assert the submarine gave them no warning. They declare the torpedo was fired as they were going to the rescue of the steamer Dunsley, which had been torpedoed, presumably by the same submarine.

That the loss of life was not much heavier was due to the preparations made by the officers, in view of the possibility of an attack while passing through the "war zone." To the fine weather which prevailed, and to the splendid discipline maintained by the crew. Lifeboats had been placed on the decks, and the lifeboats swung out. As soon as the ship was struck rafts were flung over the side. Many of the passengers and crew who were thrown into the water climbed on board these rafts, or were dragged aboard by persons already upon them.

The Americans who reached Queenstown were cared for by the United States consul. With the other passengers they left Ireland for England tonight. They lost their baggage, and many of them were borrowed clothing until the consul had provided for them.

The Arabic carried 2,613 bags of mail, mostly for the United States. The mail included several hundred bags from Sweden, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, Spain and other countries.

The Arabic was one of eleven British steamers sunk during the last forty-eight hours, four being reported yesterday and seven today. It was reported this evening that the Bovik, of the White Star Line, also had been sunk, but this later was denied. Three Norwegian and one Spanish steamer, engaged in trade with England, also were sent to the bottom.

Previous despatches from London have announced positively the sinking of only ten British steamers in the past two days. It is their belief that the Dunsley is the eleventh, although there still seems to be some doubt as to whether this vessel went down after being torpedoed.

New York, Aug. 21.—The British censor apparently silenced today the wires leading to the White Star Line here from England. Only one despatch relating to the sinking of the Arabic—a message detailing certain changes in previous lists of survivors and missing—escaped his blue pencil.

The lack of definite news from abroad was balanced by a host of rumors that tried the nerves of officials and left them tonight in a keen state of apprehension as to the fate of at least one more big steamer in or near

the war zone, the Lapland, which sailed August 12 from this port for Liverpool with 318 passengers, including thirteen Americans, and a capacity cargo of war munitions and other supplies.

Another report stated that the liner Bovik, a freighter departing from New York, August 8, with a big cargo, but no passengers, for Manchester, had met the Arabic's fate. Word that the Bovik had been sunk was received in a press despatch here from London at 5:38 p.m. today. In a later Press Association cable from London, however, the reported sinking of the Bovik was declared to be untrue. The despatch added that the steamer had arrived safely at Liverpool today, and proceeded to Manchester.

A third report dealt with the steamer Nicosian of the Leyland Line, a subsidiary of the International Mercantile Marine Company, owners of the White Star Line. A rumor that she, too, had been destroyed by a German U boat, was current, but like many similar rumors that agitated ship owners here recently, lacked verification.

Coupled with this rumor, whose source could not be learned, was the report that she was a troop ship. This was disproved by maritime records, which showed that she sailed from New Orleans, August 1, for Avonmouth and Liverpool. The Nicosian is a slow steamer and shipping men estimated that she was just about due to arrive in war zone waters. She carried no passengers. The Nicosian is a new boat, built in 1912.

Anxiety About the Lapland.
Officials of the White Star Line were frankly anxious about the Lapland. The same report of disaster having overtaken her was current in Queenstown too. A cable despatch from there, however, said that it was thought probable that the Lapland was confused with the Bristol liner New York City which fell prey to a submarine yesterday. The New York City's crew of 53 and her captain were landed at Queenstown today.

This vessel, likewise, was a British liner. She was a freighter and left this port July 26 with a cargo for Bristol which she landed safely. On Aug. 18 the New York City left Bristol in ballast on her return trip. Her agents here received confirmation of her sinking late today.

Queenstown's interpretation of the disturbing rumors about the Lapland failed, however, to give much comfort to the Lapland's owners. The Lapland, a Red Star liner, under charter to the White Star Line, sailed from this port with 318 passengers and a large and valuable cargo on the afternoon of August 12. She was delayed two hours in getting away by the last minute arrival of a quantity of Virginia tobacco in hogsheads, which had to be taken aboard, and by the work of lashing several cases of motor trucks to her main deck. When she steamed down the Hudson it was remarked that she was loaded heavily and lay low in the water.

The usual rigid inspection of merchandise and baggage taken aboard was applied in her case, private detectives aiding the officials in examining baggage.

She was expected to arrive in Liverpool late tonight or tomorrow morning, and the fact that she was due in the war zone added to the apprehension of the line officials here.

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Apparent Success of Hun Plan To Time Land Drive With Attack Upon Russians From The Baltic

While Fleet Engages Czar's Warships in Gulf of Riga Germans Continue to Make Advances by Land — Fortress of Novo Georgievsk Succumbs With Loss of Many Guns and Much War Material.

Petrograd, Aug. 20, via London, Aug. 21.—A German fleet has penetrated the Gulf of Riga and is engaged with Russian warships, defending the coast, according to an official statement issued tonight at the Russian War Office. The communication follows:

"Strong forces of the German fleet have penetrated the Gulf of Riga, and fighting with our ships continues.

"On land, on the whole front, from the west of Riga to the Lower Biliya, there has been no essential change. After the occupation of the Kovno fortifications by the Germans the remainder of the garrison rejoined our forces, occupying positions west of the railway from Janow to Kochedary, south of Kovno. Our troops still are on the left bank of the Niemen.

"From Osowetz southward, and still further along the whole front of the Upper Narew and the Bug, in the course of the 18th and 19th, the Germans made strong attacks. On the right bank of the Narew, in the region of Strenkova and Gaura, in the Strabiel-Wielka, and near Lipniz, thirteen miles northwest of Brest-Litovsk in the sectors attacked, our troops continue to withstand the enemy. Our cavalry assisted in repulsing a German offensive near Lipniz, attacking the German infantry in strong forces.

"On the Bug, the enemy, having occupied the right bank of the river since the morning of the 19th, directed his ulterior efforts along the road leading to Puzhoka.

"Near Novo Georgievsk, after occupying the left bank of the Wkra the Germans concentrated all their efforts northwest of the Wkra, as far as the Vistula. By an incessant bombardment with a hurricane of projectiles they almost completely destroyed our fortifications. In this section on the evening of the 18th the Germans surrounded one fort in the region of Ymelow and afterwards, despite enormous losses, directed their columns on the rear of the Zakroczyzn sector. This compelled our troops on the night of the 19th to retire on the line of the former forts forming the central defense. In the course of the following day, having destroyed by their fire two of these forts, the Germans, by a series of sanguinary assaults occupied their ruins, from which they directed their fire against the central defenses. We blew up the bridge over the Narew, and the forts we abandoned in the northern sector."

A powerful German fleet has been attempting, since August 8, to force an entrance into the Gulf of Riga, which would permit them to give assistance to their army, which occupies the western coast of the gulf. The Russian official statement indicates that they have accomplished their purpose, probably penetrating through the Dirben Channel, which is the only practicable way for large ships to enter the gulf.

The Russians asserted that their warships and seaplanes were successful on the 8th in repulsing nine German battleships and twelve cruisers, with a large number of torpedo boat destroyers. The Germans asserted this attack merely was a reconnaissance to determine the position of Russian mines.

A German admiralty statement issued August 11, said that German cruisers drove off Russian torpedo boats which appeared near the entrance of the gulf the preceding day, in spite of repeated attacks by Russian submarines.

A Petrograd official statement, issued this morning, admitted that Russian warships, protecting the entrance to the gulf had drawn in closer owing to the great superiority of the enemy's fleet.

London, Aug. 20.—The garrison of the fortress of Novo Georgievsk, which was left behind by Grand Duke Nicholas when he commenced the evacuation of Poland, to delay the advance of the German invaders, after accomplishing its task for just a fortnight, has succumbed to the heavy siege artillery of the Germans, which throughout the war has made every fort attacked by it untenable.

Berlin was able today to announce the capture of the fortress, with its seven hundred guns and a large quantity of war material. The spoils have not yet been estimated, but they probably are large, as it had been hoped by the Russians that the earthworks around the fortified camp would enable it to hold out much longer than it has done. It is now expected by the military observers that the other Russian fortresses, such as Brest-Litovsk, Grodno and Osowetz, either will be captured or given up.

GENERAL GERMAN OFFENSIVE.
After the fall of Kovno, Field Marshal Von Hindenberg's army commenced again an offensive along the whole front, from the Gulf of Riga to Kovno, with the object of taking Riga and the whole Warsaw-Petrograd railway from Vilna northward. He is meeting with stubborn resistance and may be denied even the possession of Riga, unless the German fleet succeeds in entering the Gulf of Riga.

South of Kovno, as far as Grodno, the Russian armies, after the fall of Kovno fell back toward the Niemen river, and here, according to the German official account, they are offering fresh resistance, in the hope of preventing or delaying the envelopment of the northern flank of the Brest-Litovsk line.

ANOTHER PRESSING DANGER.
There seemingly is danger of this line being forced by direct attack. Six Austro-German armies, strengthened by the corps which have

DETAILS OF SCHEME TO AID DISABLED SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Aug. 20.—Details of the scheme for aiding disabled soldiers who come back from the war are nearly completed and a definite announcement will be made tomorrow by Senator J. A. Lougheed, acting minister of militia. A number of large contributions are already in sight for the fund that will be raised for the purpose, and an opportunity will be given for contributions from all parts of the Dominion. The money will be used where necessary, to supplement the pensions received by the men and on account of the large number of men who will be coming home disabled a very considerable fund will be required.

A BRITISH SUBMARINE DESTROYED

Berlin, Aug. 20, via London.—The following official announcement has been made by the Admiralty:
"During the forenoon of August 19, the British submarine E-13 was destroyed at the southern outlet of The Sound."
London, Aug. 21.—A Reuter despatch from Copenhagen says fifteen members of the crew of the British submarine which ran aground Thursday in The Sound were saved. Fourteen of the others lost their lives, and the fifteenth has not been found.

MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

Hon. Mr. Hazen on Inspection Trip of St. Lawrence—Senator Lougheed Coming to Provinces.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Aug. 20.—Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries, is making a tour of inspection along the St. Lawrence river and gulf.

Sensor Lougheed, acting minister of militia, will proceed to the Maritime Provinces tomorrow. He will be accompanied by his secretary, Capt. Harold Daly.

Hon. Robert Rogers left for Quebec tonight.

GETS SEVEN YEARS IN DORCHESTER FOR STEALING
St. Stephen, Aug. 20.—William Cripps and Harold Mann, who were arrested last Saturday on the charge of breaking and entering several buildings, and stealing electrical equipment from autos and motor boats, were tried at St. Andrews by Judge Carleton today, under the Speedy Trials Act. Cripps, who is an old offender, was sentenced to seven years in the Dorchester Penitentiary, and Mann was allowed out on probation.

WASHINGTON, LACKING OFFICIAL DETAILS, IS SILENT ABOUT ARABIC

Many Matters to be Considered Before Deciding that Germany's Action was "Deliberately Unfriendly"—President Wilson Awaits Reports from Ambassador Page and Vice-Consul Thompson—No Attempt to Minimize Seriousness of Situation.

Washington, Aug. 20.—The official details upon which President Wilson will decide whether the sinking of the White Star liner Arabic was an act deliberately unfriendly to the United States were still lacking today and meanwhile the president and all other administration officials, while realizing fully the gravity of the new situation between the United States and Germany were keeping their minds open.

President Wilson left the White House early to motor to Philadelphia to visit his oculist and motor back to the capital this evening. When he has a deep problem in his mind it is the president's habit to seek seclusion, often riding through the countryside. No officials here doubted that he was giving hours of thought to the Arabic case.

Only two official despatches had been received and they gave the fruits of an independent investigation, merely transmitting the reports of the White Star Line. The United States will decide its course upon the reports of its own officials.

Ambassador Page forwarded a White Star report that the ship was torpedoed without warning and Vice-Consul Thompson at Queenstown made a similar report. Neither accounted for Mrs. Josephine Bruguiere nor Dr. Edmund Woods, the two Americans still missing.

While officials here are keeping their minds open during the hours which will be required for assembling the official evidence they are thinking about these points: whether any Americans have been lost and whether the Arabic actually was torpedoed without warning.

Whether the Arabic, by having been conveyed on the beginning of her voyage, had, under international law, partaken of the character of her conveyance.

BULGARIAN OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON ADMITS HIS COUNTRY MAY JOIN ALLIES
New York, Aug. 20.—A despatch from Washington to the Evening Sun says:
"Though not officially advised of it the Bulgarian legation here did not discredit an unconfirmed report current in Washington today that Bulgaria had already joined the Allies."
"It is not impossible," said First Secretary Poulloff of the legation, "that my country has done so."

LAUNDRYMEN JOIN STRIKERS IN BRIDGEPORT

Labor unrest spreads to several more plants—Reported strike of Electric Cable Co. employees reported.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 20.—Labor unrest was a prevailing condition in many Bridgeport industrial plants today. It was reported that employees of the Bryant Electric Company, the Electric Cable Company, the Star Shirt Company, and in two laundries have gone out, and that other departments in the Salts Textile plant are closed because of additions to the strikers' ranks. The number of strikers is said to exceed 2,000.

THE STANDARD
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SWISS CONSUL-GENERAL IN CANADA DECLARES HIS COUNTRY WILL REMAIN STRICTLY NEUTRAL

Montreal, Aug. 20.—Denial of the rumor published in newspapers a few days ago that Switzerland was likely to enter the war on the side of Germany was made by Mr. Henry Martin, Swiss consul general, Montreal, in an interview tonight. Such a rumor was unwarranted and unfair, he said. "Switzerland is resolved to maintain the strict principles of neutrality," he declared. In proof of this he quoted a recent law passed in Switzerland for the censorship of the press, for the purpose of avoiding friction with the belligerents.