

Dutch Steamer Tubantia Victim of a Submarine

Was Struck Amidships in the Dense Darkness---Explosion was a Violent one---Desaster Has Created A Profound Sensation in Holland.

(Canadian Press.)

LONDON, March 17.—According to latest reports, there were undoubtedly some casualties as a result of the disaster to the Holland-Lloyd passenger steamship Tubantia early yesterday morning, says a Reuter's despatch from Flushing. Men from the crew who have been landed by Dutch torpedo boats say that the vessel was struck amidships in dense darkness owing to a mist. The explosion was so terrific that some of the life boats on deck were shattered to pieces. Two Dutch torpedo boats have brought to Flushing a large number of the survivors who had reached the Noordhinder lightship in small boats. Owing to the heavy mist and rough sea, they were five hours in reaching the lightship.

The Dutch Admiralty states that survivors from the Tubantia have arrived in Holland, while the revised lists of the steamship Company show that there were 381 persons on board, according to a Reuter despatch from The Hague.

The Tubantia Was the Largest and Finest Ship Sailing Under the Dutch Flag

AMSTERDAM, March 17 (via London).—The newest and finest steamship sailing under the Dutch flag, the Tubantia, of the Holland-Lloyd line, was sunk shortly before dawn yesterday, thirty miles off the Dutch coast. Although it is not possible to establish whether the sinking was due to a mine or a torpedo, there is a singular unanimity on the part of those who were on board in attributing it to a submarine's act. The crew base their belief in this regard chiefly on the intense violence of the explosion and on the fact that it occurred amidships. The vessel was outward bound from Amsterdam to South American ports, carrying a crew of 294 and 82 passengers, the latter mostly neutrals; including, it is said, three Americans. The ship bore the usual identification marks of her neutral character, including an illuminated name and flag.

The disaster has created a profound sensation throughout Holland, where the ship was a great popular favorite, owing to its size and luxurious appointments.

The Press Comments Reflect Both Anger And Indignation of the Dutch Populace

The press comments reflect both anger and indignation. The Nieuw Rotterdamse Courant says: "Between being torpedoed and being mined the only difference which exists is that known in criminal law between intention and conditional intention. If the ship were torpedoed, then there were absolute intention, or ignorance or neglect equivalent to intention. The submarine commander must have known, when he gave the command to fire, that the ship was the Tubantia. No words can be found to qualify this crime; no excuse can be accepted."

It is now believed that there was a small number of lives lost in the sinking of the Tubantia, either in the explosion or in an accident which attended the launching of one of the lifeboats. The steamship remained afloat for several hours. According to all reports, there was no panic.

LOSS A SERIOUS ONE.

THE HAGUE, March 17 (via London).—The loss of one of Holland's finest steamships has stirred the country deeply. The sinking of the Tubantia, valued at \$1,600,000, and insured for \$1,240,000, means the loss of valuable cargo space not easily replaceable. The opinion accredited to the captain that the Tubantia was torpedoed adds to the feeling of resentment aroused by the disaster. The newspapers generally demand that such occurrences shall cease, and call upon the government to act.

GERMAN FLEET MAY COME OUT.

PARIS, March 17.—The retirement of Admiral Von Tirpitz is considered in French official circles, according to the Paris newspapers, to be due to the fact that he has opposed the coming out of the German fleet, while Emperor William desires to see it engage the British naval forces. The conclusion is consequently drawn that a change may be looked for in the German naval policy, and that the recent appearance of German warships in the North Sea is a sign that preparations are being made for an early action by the high sea fleet.

CHANCELLOR MAY RETIRE.

LONDON, March 17.—Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, may follow Admiral Von Tirpitz into retirement, according to a despatch from Geneva to the Daily Express, quoting Berlin reports, which also state that Prince Bernhard Von Buelow, the former Chancellor, will soon leave Lucerne for Berlin.

ACTIVITY ON RUSSIAN BATTLEFRONT

(Canadian Press.)

Berlin, March 17.—(By wireless to Sayville)—Increased activity on the Russian border is reported in the official Austrian communication of yesterday, as received here today. The statement follows:

"On the fronts of the armies of the Generals Pflanzer, Baltin, Boehm-Ermolli, there was increased activity by the artillery on both sides. Russian attacks northeast of Kozlov, on the Stripa, were repulsed.

"Italian attacks on the Isonzo front decreased in violence. Two attempts to advance against the Pedgera position by strong Italian forces were impeded by artillery fire. An Italian attack on the northern slope of San Michele was repulsed with sanguinary losses for the assailants.

"At many points there were artillery duels during the night. On the Corinthian front, there is artillery fire in the Fella sector."

THE STOCK MARKET.

Stock quotations furnished by J. M. Robinson & Sons at noon were: C. P. R., 166½; Crucible, 95; Erie, 38; Mexican Petroleum, 108½; Cement, 49; Iron, 46; Spanish River, 9½; Scotia, 107½; Power 231.

THE COLBY AFFIDAVIT MAKES VERY INTERESTING READING.

Document That Led to a Secret Investigation by Commissioner Teed is Made Public for the First Time—Grave Allegations Against H. M. Blair of the Public Works Department.

This is what it is all about.

The secret investigation of M. G. Teed into the official conduct of Mr. H. M. Blair, Secretary of the Public Works Department, was caused by the following solemn affidavit of Mr. Enoch C. Colby, formerly a bosom friend of Mr. Blair and manager of the Concrete Constructions Company, Limited, which cleaned and painted so many steel bridges in this province.

Mr. Teed's report will settle whether the affidavit amounts to anything or not.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO—COUNTY OF CARLETON, TO WIT:

In the matter of Harry M. Blair, of Fredericton, in the Province of New Brunswick, Secretary of the Department of Public Works, and in the matter of a certain contract between the said Department of Public Works and Concrete Constructions, Limited.

I, Enoch Clifford Colby, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Esquire, do solemnly declare:

1. That during the years 1913 and 1914 I was Managing Director of Concrete Constructions, Limited.
2. That in the Spring of 1913 Concrete Constructions, Limited, entered into a contract with the Department of Public Works to sand blast and paint the highway bridges throughout the province of New Brunswick.
3. That my negotiations in connection with the obtaining of this contract were with the Hon. the Minister of Public Works and with Mr. A. R. Wetmore, Provincial Engineer.
4. That after the contract had been awarded to me I was taken by the said Wetmore to the office of Harry M. Blair, Secretary of the Department of Public Works, and there introduced to the said Blair, and the said Blair was informed by the said Wetmore that Concrete Constructions Limited had been awarded the said contract and I was informed that Blair would attend to the necessary arrangements in connection with the carrying out of the contract.
5. That on that occasion the said Blair appeared to be annoyed that the contract had been let without his knowledge, and mentioned this fact several times.

6. Some short time subsequent to this occasion I was in Mr. Blair's office and he told me that he thought that I should let him in on same, or should look after him financially in connection therewith.

7. That at that time it was very important to Concrete Constructions, Limited, that there should be no delay in the issuing of the Departmental cheques, and it was therefore very necessary in the interests of Concrete Constructions, Limited, that Mr. Blair should regard the Company in a friendly manner, as it would have been easy for him to have delayed on various pretexts the issuance of these cheques. In speaking to me about being allowed to share in the profits of this contract, Mr. Blair threatened that if I did not make some arrangement for him that he would make it his business to see that the payments to us were held up and that the Company would be otherwise embarrassed in carrying out the contract.

8. In connection with the carrying out of this contract, it was necessary for Concrete Constructions, Limited, to utilize large quantities of gasoline and cylinder oil. Mr. Blair pointed out to me that we would be purchasing gasoline and cylinder oil and that it could be arranged that he obtain profit from these purchases, and he further told me that he would see Harry Smith, of Smith Bros., who deal in these commodities in Fredericton, and arrange about his profit. Subsequently Blair told me to purchase the gasoline and cylinder oil from Smith Bros., as the matter of his profit had been satisfactorily arranged. He also told me that it would be necessary for me after paying Smith Bros. the amount of their account, to see Harry Smith and obtain from him the amount arranged and to bring it to the said Blair.

9. I accordingly purchased all the gasoline and cylinder oil needed in connection with the contract from the said Smith Bros., and from time to time, generally about every three weeks, called on Smith Bros. and obtained from Harry Smith a statement showing the amount due to the said Blair under the arrangement set forth above, and he would hand me the money in cash and I would take it to the Barker House in Fredericton and would meet the said

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UNITED STATES TROOPS SOON TO CLASH WITH VILLA'S BAND OF OUTLAWS

Excitement along the Border is at a High Pitch---American Familiar with District Say that Invaders are close to Villa's Territory.

(Canadian Press.)

EL PASO, Texas, March 17.—Expectation along the border was keyed to its highest pitch today by the general belief that before nightfall the advance guard of the American expeditionary force would have entered Villa territory in the mountains of the Casas Grandes region of Mexico.

While the censorship prevented any official news of the whereabouts of the American columns, reports brought by Americans arriving from the interior, coupled with the calculations of men thoroughly familiar with the territory over which the expeditionary force is passing, made it reasonably certain that the United States soldiers must be close to the district where Villa is believed to exercise his greatest influence and have the largest number of sympathizers.

With the possibility that actual fighting with the outlaws may begin at any moment, interest was redoubled in every item of intelligence that threw any light on the attitude of the Carranza adherents, and more especially on that of the five detachments of Carranza troops who are declared by the officials of the de facto government to be operating against Villa.

FRENCH TROOPS REPULSED FIVE SUCCESSIVE

ATTACKS DELIVERED BY THE GERMANS

PARIS, March 17.—The text of the French official communication on progress of hostilities given out by the French War Office this afternoon reads as follows:

"To the west of the Meuse the bombardment diminished last night in the region of Bethincourt and Cumieres. After the bloody check to the attack of yesterday the enemy has not resumed his movement on Mort Homme.

"To the east of the Meuse a reconnaissance of the bombardment was followed at 8 o'clock last night by a series of very violent offensive actions directed against our position, at the village and the forts of Vaux.

"Five successive attacks in large numbers were delivered by the Germans in this region, but without success. Two of them were against the village of Vaux, two others against the slopes leading up to the forts, and the fifth was an effort to emerge from a protected roadway to the southeast of the village of Vaux. Every one of these attacks was broken by our curtain of fire, and the fire of our machine guns cost the enemy heavily. In the Woivre district there is nothing to report other than artillery duels in all the sectors to the west of Pont-a-Mousson. A surprise attack against a salient of the enemy lines at the wood of Mortmare made it possible for us to bring back some prisoners and to inflict some losses on the enemy.

"The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

THE MEXICAN ATTITUDE.

Andres Garcia, the Carranza consul here, who is recognized as the closest man to the first chief on the border, refused to make any definite statement as to what operation the American officers might expect from the Mexican authorities.

Rumors of disaffection and revolt among the Carranza troops are plentiful here, as there are people ready to spread them, but all reliable information is to the effect that thus far at least the first chief and his lieutenants have maintained strict order.

RESENT PRESENCE OF AMERICANS.

There seems no question that a considerable portion of the Mexican people bitterly resent the presence of American troops in their country, but as far as is known, they have not shown their hostility by any overt act.

The twelve Mexicans suspected of activities were arrested here last night and placed in jail with the eleven other former generals and "cabinet ministers" of Villa.

The manoeuvres of Villa's friends in El Paso seem to be mainly concerned with the dissemination of sensational reports reflecting upon the supporters of Carranza and intended to provoke ill feeling between them and the Americans.

GERMAN SHIPS SEIZED.

NEW YORK, March 17.—A news agency despatch from London today says: Forty-four German ships have been seized by the Brazilian government, according to despatches from Liverpool. The German vessels were merchantmen that had been interned in Brazilian ports at the outbreak of the war. It is understood that Brazil has acted thus to meet a shortage of transport requirements.