

## LINER TORPEDOED

### PASSENGER STEAMER WAS GOING TO BOMBAY WHEN HIT

## MANY LIVES WERE LOST

### Four Lifeboats Got Away, Saving 150 Persons—Passengers Aboard Numbered 160 While Crew Totalled 300—American Consul is Only American Citizen Drowned.

The British liner Persia carrying approximately two hundred passengers and a crew of between two hundred and fifty and three hundred men was sunk by an unidentified submarine at one o'clock Thursday afternoon off the island of Crete, in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Unofficial dispatches from Cairo state that the British steamship Persia was torpedoed without warning and sank in five minutes. Between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and sixty survivors have been landed at Alexandria, Egypt.

Robert N. McNeely, American consul at Aden, Arabia, is believed to have been aboard the Persia. A correspondent makes the unreserved statement that Mr. McNeely lost his life. Charles H. Grant of Boston was saved.

Details of the sinking of the Persia came in slowly, but they indicated that the liner was torpedoed without warning and sank in five minutes. Between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and sixty survivors have been landed at Alexandria, Egypt.

The survivors comprise the chief officer, second officer, seven engineers, twenty-seven seamen, sixty-three lascars and fifty-nine passengers. A Lloyd's dispatch gives the number as one hundred and fifty-three, made up of fifty-five passengers of whom seventeen are women and ninety-four members of the crew, including fifty-nine lascars. The survivors include ten military officers and eight persons who are not British subjects.

"The ship was struck amidships on the port side at one-tenth a. m.," says Reuter's correspondent at Cairo. "She had disappeared completely by one-fifteen."

"Survivors say it was little short of a miracle that any one was saved. There was no panic and the survivors were launched with the utmost promptitude.

"The captain was drowned. When last seen he was swimming after the liner had plunged beneath the surface."

Only one dispatch concerning the sinking of the Persia has been received by the State department. It came from Consul Garrels at Alexandria, Egypt, and indicated that Consul McNeely, on his way to his post, had been lost. He was last seen in the water before the steamship disappeared.

Consul Garrels also reported that Charles H. Grant of Boston, another American aboard the Persia, was among the survivors.

No submarine was seen by the survivors, according to the consul's report, but an officer of the ship says he saw the wake of a torpedo. The Persia was carrying two hundred passengers and a crew of between two hundred and fifty and three hundred men.

The Persia sailed from London on December 18 for Bombay, with sixty-one in the second cabin and eighty-three in the third. She was carrying Edward Rose, a Denver school boy, who landed at Gibraltar, Marseilles and Malta. At Marseilles she was carrying thirty-two passengers, including eighty-seven women and twenty-five children, were taken aboard but line officials say that after deducting those leaving the ship at her various ports of call about one hundred and sixty passengers were aboard when the vessel was sunk.

The crew of the Persia numbered between two hundred and fifty and three hundred men. They were nearly all lascars. There was not much cargo aboard the Persia, but she was carrying very heavy mail. The vessel carried no war materials.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steamship company Sunday night reported that the Persia was blown up. Col. C. Bigham, who was among the survivors of the Persia disaster, said: "A torpedo struck the ship on the port bow at one-fifth o'clock in the afternoon when about forty miles south of the east end of the island of Crete. No warning was given nor any attempt to assist. Within five minutes the ship had sunk."

"It was impossible to lower the starboard boats, owing to the heavy list. Five or six boats were lowered on the port side. I did not see this myself as I was washed overboard when the boat capsized."

"The conduct of the passengers and crew was splendid, there was no struggling and no panic. Four boats after thirty hours at sea were picked up by a warship."

## AUSTRIAN SHIPS LOST

### Allied Squadron Sinks Two Destroyers Near Cattaro.

## SEVEN NEW STATES JOIN THE PROHIBITION COLUMN

### Friday sees Old Year Die and Vith More Than Three Thousand Saloons.

## GERMANY IS BEATEN

### EMPIRE HAS SHOT HER BOLT AND WAR ENDS IN 1916

## ALLIES WIN WITH MEN

### War Correspondent Declares That Kaiser Must Go Down in Defeat Because the Allies Have an Overwhelming Superiority in Ships, in Men and in Money.

John Reed recently returned to New York after a sojourn with the Russian armies in the eastern war front, and a tour through the Balkan States. Earlier in 1915 he had been with the German armies in the west and was convinced of their invincibility. He was correspondent of the New York World during the Mexican revolution. Otherwise Mr. Reed's war correspondence has been done for the Metropolitan Magazine.

Observations made during a year of travel in Europe, where I visited England, France, Germany, Belgium, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Rumania, Italy—all the belligerents except Austria—have convinced me that Germany is already beaten, and that the war will be ended by the German armies from the conquered lands.

It doesn't seem how there was ever a possibility of Germany's winning the war, unless she managed somehow to smash one of the three great allies—France, Russia or Great Britain. Any one of these three out of the war would be a disaster to Germany. Italy I don't consider one of the vital factors in the struggle; she would have been vital only if she had thrown her lot with the central powers, and hung like a snapping dog on the flanks of France. Had she remained neutral, the ultimate result must have been the same—Victory for the Triple Entente.

To my mind it is a question of ships, men and money. Almost all the bulletin board strategists at the beginning of the war calculated on the basis that the great German drive on Paris, and the fighting on the Aisne—when on the map which hung against the wall of my room in Paris I followed the official communications and watched the apparent invincible Teuton advance—and then the monstrous crumbling of the Russian front, and finally the annihilation of Serbia, made us feel that perhaps superior organization, speed and mobility of forces were the determining factors.

By a miracle of organization the French and British got themselves together in the west so that German superiority in that regard was cancelled. On the eastern front the Russians were pressed as far as Russians could be pressed, and an invading army beyond which an invading army becomes top-heavy, and every miles of conquest cancels offensive fighting power; on account of the difficulties of provisioning in a vast and terrible plain where everything has been eaten by the retreating host, the necessity of constructing mighty lines of communication where railroads are few and roads impossible, and the attitude of the civilian population, who become wild beasts the moment the conqueror puts foot on the soil of Holy Russia.

Finally, down in the Balkans, where every day registers a new German victory, the armies of the central powers, Bulgaria and Turkey, have an overwhelming preponderance beyond which an invading army becomes top-heavy, and every miles of conquest cancels offensive fighting power; on account of the difficulties of provisioning in a vast and terrible plain where everything has been eaten by the retreating host, the necessity of constructing mighty lines of communication where railroads are few and roads impossible, and the attitude of the civilian population, who become wild beasts the moment the conqueror puts foot on the soil of Holy Russia.

Just because copper telephone wires and copper kettles and copper pipes were requisitioned, it doesn't mean that Germany's supplies of that metal have run out. The shortage pinched, no doubt, but when I was in Berlin I witnessed the arrival of some millions of bars from America, which had been shipped to Sevastopol, Italy, and transported north in carloads of "dried vegetables."

That copper paraded in carts down the Unter den Linden behind a military band, and the Americans in charge made a night of it. Germany has seized the great Serbian copper mine—one of the largest in the world—and for some months has been working inexhaustible deposits in Asia Minor.

As for food, the newspaper tales of bread riots, starving women on the front, and soldiers on the front surrendering to get a square meal, even have given an entirely wrong idea of conditions in Germany. All the conquerors' lands were under the plough and the sowers, the railroads, embankments were growing vegetables, ponds and swamps have been drained and filled up to make gardens, and the Bulgarian grain crop and the Rumanian grain crop were bought by Germany.

Germany can feed herself for seven years with a normal increase of population. It is not so easy now as it will be in two years, when the fields are bearing and the reclaimed land all worked. Germany must economize for the time between harvest, that is in the fall and I may add that when I was in Berlin, last February, food cost less than it did in London.

So it is not an immediate question of food, money, munitions or even ships. The war will be definitely won on land, and won with the preponderance of fighting men. The question is, will the Allies, all conditions on both sides being equal, be able to dominate in sheer numbers of men? I think they will. And I don't believe that there is a doubt of it in the mind of any one who knows the relative populations of the belligerents, and the percentage of useful men in any such population.

But can they shoot equally well?

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## SOUTH CAROLINA GOES DRY; LAW TO BE MADE TIGHTER

### Friday Afternoon at Sundown Saw the Final Close of the Business of the Dispensaries.

At midnight Friday South Carolina was numbered among the prohibition states and the dispensary system, around which has centered the political battles of the state for almost a quarter of a century, ceased to exist when the sun went down Friday afternoon. Prohibition was voted in by an overwhelming majority in a referendum election held on September 14 this year.

The general assembly, at its last session, had forbidden the importation into South Carolina by one person of more than one gallon of spirituous liquors containing over ten per centum of alcohol. However, certain spirits are permitted for the church arts and under a recent decision of the attorney general, State Senator Carlisle of Spartanburg announced several days ago that he would introduce a bill in the general assembly which meets next month, repealing the so-called "gallon-a-month" law, making the state absolutely "dry" legally.

In 1892 the state dispensary system replaced the old open barroom, and in 1907, the state-wide organization was superseded by the county dispensary system. Fifteen counties out of forty-four now have dispensaries.

It is estimated by L. L. Bultman, state dispensary auditor, that at least one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars worth of liquor was on hand when the dispensaries closed. This surplus has placed the state authorities in a quandary, as the bill providing for the referendum election of the dispensary system, provided for a stock that might be left over, and the position of every official and subordinate of the system automatically ceased Friday night.

This raises a doubt as to the ownership of the remaining stock, and what disposition can be made of it as it can not legally be sold in South Carolina. The matter will either have to be adjusted by the legislature or the courts, it is said. Bamberg and Williamsburg counties are the only ones that have completely disposed of their stocks. It is estimated that the Columbia dispensaries will have a thirty-thousand-dollar surplus stock and Charleston fifty thousand dollars worth of whiskey on hand.

Gov. Manning states that the prohibition law will be enforced to the letter. Representative Liles of Orangeburg at the next session of the legislature will introduce a bill making the penalty for conviction of the selling of liquor a straight chain gang, sentence without the alternative of a fine.

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## WAITS FOR DETAILS

### AUSTRIAN RELATIONS STRAINED BY LOSS OF THE PERSIA

## FACTS COME IN SLOWLY

### Submarine Was Not Seen and the Reported Wake of Torpedo is Regarded as Peculiar—Baron Zwiadinek is Confident His Government Will Satisfactorily Adjust the Matter.

Anxiety over the news of the sinking of the British steamship Persia increased in official circles at Washington when a consular dispatch from the Austrian government stated that the ship had been torpedoed without warning and that at least one American citizen, Robert N. McNeely, missus, consul at Aden, Arabia, was missing.

At the same time officials were much gratified at the indication, emanating from Baron Erich Zwiadinek, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy at the Vienna government, that an Austrian commander had disobeyed instructions in regard to the sinking of the passenger-carrying ships without warning.

"Judgment should be withheld pending the receipt of the facts, surrounding the sinking of the steamer Persia," said Baron Zwiadinek. "It may have happened in many ways. The Austrian government will be glad to furnish an explanation if it can be proved that a submarine sank the Persia. If it was an Austrian submarine it must be determined whether the circumstances were such as to warrant the action taken."

"I am confident, at least I hope, that the Austrian government will be quite satisfactory. If the command of the submarine disobeyed his instructions I feel sure my government will not hesitate to satisfactorily adjust the matter."

"From the answer made to the last inquiry from the Ancona alone it is quite evident that the Austrian government will not contentance any act which is wrong."

Complete confidence prevails in Teutonic diplomatic circles that if an Austrian submarine sank the Persia without warning the act would be at once punished, reparation made for the loss of an American citizen and the submarine commander severely punished.

It is understood that Baron Zwiadinek will call upon Secretary Lansing for the purpose of informally conveying his views on the subject and endeavoring to gain an understanding of the facts before making a report for the information of his government.

While Secretary Lansing declined to comment on the situation confronting the United States, it became known that he and other administration officials were awaiting full information before forming an opinion and determining upon any action.

Officials expressed themselves as not being convinced that a submarine sank the Persia. They were impressed by the statement in the dispatch from Alexandria that the wake of the torpedo had been seen, although no submarine was sighted. The Navy officials said they would consider it out of the ordinary, although not impossible that a torpedo fired by a submerged submarine should leave a visible wake.

The official statement of the case showed that the United States had about come to the end of its rope in conducting diplomatic negotiations over submarine warfare. There was no inclination to minimize the gravity of the situation which developed from the sinking of the Persia and a prompt disavowal from Vienna was not forthcoming. It was thought possible, however, that the Vienna government may see fit to follow the example set by Germany upon the sinking of the Arabic.

The Arabic was torpedoed at a time when it appeared that the submarine controversy with Germany was on the road to settlement. A week later Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, returned in a friendly assurance to the United States government that full satisfaction "more than a disavowal" would be given by the Berlin government should the circumstances as they were reported proved to be correct.

Should the developments warrant it and should the nationality of the submarine remain unsolved the United States, it was said, probably will address inquiries to Austria-Hungary, Germany and Turkey, the only nations whose submarines might be in the eastern Mediterranean.

The inquiries necessarily would have to be sent to all three nations, although it is believed certain in all quarters that Austria-Hungary is the only one of the Teutonic allies with submarines in those waters. This belief is based primarily upon a statement recently made by Count von Bernstorff to the effect that no German or Turkish submarines were known to be operating there.

Any action taken by the United States will be based upon affidavits from passengers, particularly Americans, rather than upon officers of the ship. Final decision as to what action, if any, is to be taken will be made by the president, who will refer to Washington from Hot Springs in a day or two. Several points remain to be cleared up.

The state department especially desires additional corroboration of the statement that the wake of a torpedo was seen in the waters. This belief is based upon a statement made by the young woman to her home late Saturday night after a dance, they quarreled and he left. Her father, a police officer, came out of the house and killed Stribbling. No arrest has been made.

It is understood that the Lusitania and the Ancona negotiations will be allowed to remain in their present status until more definite details regarding the sinking of the Persia are at hand.

Austrian Note Received. The official text of Austria's Ancona note was received early Friday at the state department in Washington. The work of translating from the diplomatic code into English and the diplomatic arrangements for publication will be made later.

## POSSE KILLS SIX

### FOUR NEGROES SHOT AND TWO BURNED TO DEATH

## SHOT DOWN WHITE MAN

### Three Negroes Assassinate Farmer in Presence of His Wife and Shoot at Culprits and Suspects Start Shooting at Their Approach.

Three Negroes assassinated a farmer in the presence of his wife and shot at culprits and suspects start shooting at their approach. Two Negroes were shot to death, four Negroes were wounded and one Negro was burned to death. The sheriff's posse started shooting at their approach.

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## AUSTRIA DISAVOWS CRISIS CLEARED AWAY

### Austria Agrees That Laws of Humanity Should be Respected by Belligerents

## CRISIS CLEARED AWAY

### London reports: The Austrian reply to the second American note on the Ancona states that the commander of the Austrian submarine has been punished for not sufficiently taking account of the panic aboard the Ancona, which rendered disembarkation more difficult.

The reply of the Austrian government is forwarded to Reuter's Telegram company from Vienna by way of Amsterdam. The note says in part:

"In reply to the second American Ancona note the Austro-Hungarian government fully agrees with the Washington cabinet that the sacred laws of humanity should be taken into account also in war, and emphasizes that, in the course of this war, has given numerous proofs of the most humane feelings.

"The Austro-Hungarian government, too, can positively concur in the principle that enemy private vessels, so far as they do not flee or offer resistance, shall not be destroyed before the persons aboard are secured.

"The assurance that the United States government has given in regard to the maintenance of the existing food relations between Austria-Hungary and the United States is warmly reciprocated by the Austro-Hungarian government, which now, as heretofore, is anxious to render these relations still more cordial."

The Austro-Hungarian government then communicates the results of an inquiry into the sinking of the Ancona, which was recently conducted by the commander of the submarine from a great distance in the first instance fired a warning shot on the steamer signed at eleven-forty in the forenoon, which he believed to be a merchant vessel. At the same time giving a signal for the vessel to stop. As the steamer failed to stop and tried to escape the submarine gave chase and fired sixteen shells, of which three were observed to hit the vessel. The steamer was then stopped and the commander observed that six boats were fully manned and they speedily rowed away from the steamer.

Approaching nearer the commander of the submarine saw that a great panic prevailed aboard the steamer and that he had before him the passenger vessel Ancona, on account of which he gave those aboard more time than he was permitted to leave the vessel's lifeboats.

Washington reports: Danger of a break in the diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary over the sinking of the liner Ancona probably has been cleared away. The Austrian government's reply to the second American note conforms to press dispatches from London saying the communication announces that the submarine commander who torpedoed the steamer was punished. The cable press translation of the note reached Washington too late to be seen by high officials of the government and a dispatch received earlier from Ambassador Penfield would not have been again might be taken for granted.

The remaining demand, that reparation by payment of indemnity be made for the injury or loss of life by Americans, would be an object of diplomatic adjustment once the other points at issue are disposed of.

Although officials indicated that there were indications favorable to an amicable settlement of the controversy there had been nothing in press dispatches from abroad or published in this country to suggest that Austria would admit immediately wrongdoing on the part of her officer.

Should the developments warrant it and should the nationality of the submarine remain unsolved the United States, it was said, probably will address inquiries to Austria-Hungary, Germany and Turkey, the only nations whose submarines might be in the eastern Mediterranean.

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Burned to Death. In a fire which destroyed a boarding house at Clearwater, Aiken county, Christmas night, Charlie Smith was burned to death and another man, James B. McNamara, was injured. The fire broke out at about midnight on Christmas day and whose name is unknown is missing.

Dynamiter Convicted. Mathew A. Schmidt was convicted at Los Angeles, Thursday night of first degree murder as the accomplice of James B. McNamara in the blowing up of the Los Angeles Times building three years ago.

## COLUMBIA EX-CONVICT SLAYS WOMAN AND SUICIDES

### Second Woman to Fall Victim to Hand of Murderer—Fell Dead on Street.

### Her throat cut, Mrs. Ada Geddings fled from her home, 608 Sumner street, early Tuesday, crying for the police, and fell dead on the sidewalk before aid could reach her.

Edward E. White, a boarder, was found lying across a bed, from a stab in the neck. A pocket knife which was the instrument of the tragedy was identified as White's.

Aroused by screams, a neighbor summoned the police. When they found the woman was dead. Both Mrs. Geddings and White were in night clothes. The double tragedy occurred at four-thirty o'clock. White was the only boarder and Mrs. Geddings was the only other occupant of the house.

The woman was found lying on the sidewalk in Columbia sixteen years ago and was convicted in the Richland county court of general sessions October 20, 1899, of murder, the jury recommending him, however, to the penitentiary.

The late James Aldrich, presiding judge, sentenced him to life imprisonment, and he was committed to the penitentiary October 30, 1899. During the next year he had been examined by a commission on the part of the State, in March, 1913, on condition of good behavior and abstention from intoxicants.

Threw Babies in River. Mrs. Edward Krause threw her two small sons into the Milford reservoir