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# WILSON DECLARES AMERICA AT WAR



## UNCLE SAM TAKES OVER HUGE GERMAN FLEET

Merchant Vessels, Interned Since Beginning of the  
 Conflict, Are Seized by Federal Officers.

91 SHIPS, AGGREGATING ABOUT 600,000  
 TONS, ARE NOW IN POSSESSION OF U. S.

Craft Ranging in Size from the Great Vaterland,  
 of 54,282 Tons, Down to Small Sailing Ves-  
 sels, Are Included in Haul.

By Associated Press.  
 New York, April 6.—The seizure of German merchant vessels  
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 this morning, almost immediately after congress passed the resolu-  
 tion declaring a state of war between the United States and Ger-  
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 federal officials at New London, Conn.; Baltimore, New York and  
 other places quickly followed. Before daylight United States deputy  
 marshals were in charge of German vessels ranging in size from the  
 majestic Vaterland, of 54,282 gross tons, to small sailing vessels.  
 Seizure of the twenty-seven vessels in New York harbor.

## PRESIDENT CALLS ON CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THEIR NATION

United States Formally Enters Conflict Against  
 Germany---Nava Militia and Naval Re-  
 serves Are Called to the Colors.

By Associated Press.  
 Havana, Cuba, April 6.—President Venocal this afternoon sent a message to congress ask-  
 ing that body to declare that a state of war exists between Cuba and Germany.

By Associated Press.  
 Washington, April 6.—President Wilson today signed the resolution of congress declaring a state of  
 war between the United States and Germany.  
 All the naval militia and naval reserves were called to the colors with the president's signing of the  
 war resolution.  
 The war resolution was signed by the president at 1:11 o'clock.  
 The president also signed a proclamation formally declaring a state of war between the United  
 States and Germany. In the proclamation he called upon American citizens to give support to all meas-  
 ures of the government.

NAVY AT ONCE NOTIFIED.

## BRAZIL AND CUBA MAY JOIN WAR ON GERMANY

Anti-German Feeling in Rio Janerio Is Intense as  
 Result of Sinking of Brazilian Steamer.

## GERMAN SUBMARINES IN THE GULF WAITING FOR DECLARATION OF WAR

French Regain Trenches in Rheims Region—Ger-  
 man Troops Take Over 9,000 Russians in  
 Attack on the Stokhod.

By Associated Press.  
 With the proclamation of a state of war between the United  
 States and Germany on the verge of issuance, the probability of  
 other American nations joining this republic in hostilities is pointed  
 to in today's dispatches.  
 Brazil, according to advices rom South America, is trembling on  
 the brink of war with Germany. A German submarine has sunk the  
 Brazilian steamer Parana, with the loss of three members of the  
 crew. Anti-German feeling in Rio Janeiro, as a consequence, is re-  
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 The little republic of Cuba is another American nation likely to

this morning, almost immediately after congress passed the resolution declaring a state of war between the United States and Germany. The collector of the port at Boston was the first to act. The federal officials at New London, Conn.; Baltimore, New York and other places quickly followed. Before daylight United States deputy marshals were in charge of German vessels ranging in size from the majestic Vaterland, of 54,282 gross tons, to small sailing vessels. Seizure of the twenty-seven vessels in New York harbor took place at an early hour. The first vessels taken over here were the Hamburg, Koenig Wilhelm II, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, Prinz Joachim and Allemannia, in the Hudson river, at the foot of One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street.

These ships total 38,128 tons, and there are 41 officers and 173 men in the crews.

The boarding party comprised deputy marshals and collectors, immigration agents and United States infantry. When they took possession some of the Germans were disturbed, but for the most part they exchanged jokes with their visitors.

The crews were taken to Ellis Island, pending orders as to the disposition of them.

Captain Leitner of the Koenig Wilhelm II and several of the sailors protested against this procedure, saying they had American citizenship papers. It was decided to detain them until their status was announced in Washington. A small guard of soldiers was placed on each vessel.

The port officers acted on orders issued by the secretary of the treasury. It is understood that this move does not involve confiscation and that the vessels are to be held for the present as a measure of safety. There has been no announcement as to whether the government shall take over the ships for its own use and pay for them after the war.

German vessels now in American ports number 91, with a gross tonnage of about 600,000. This includes 2 ships in refuge at the Philippin Islands; eleven at Honolulu and one at Pagopago, a port of the Pacific islands. There are 27 German ships at New York, five at Boston, three at Baltimore, two at Philadelphia, three at San Francisco, two at New Orleans, two at Southport, N. C., two at Astoria, Ore., one each at Portland, Ore., Winslow, Wash.; Seattle, Norfolk, Va.; Savannah, Charleston, Jacksonville and San Juan, Porto Rico.

The German vessels now in American waters include two which have been interned. The ships lying at their slips at the Hamburg-American and North German-Lloyd docks at New York and Hoboken include some of the flower of the German merchant marine. The Vaterland, one of the largest vessels in the world, is by far the most valuable. Next in size is the George Washington, 25,570 tons. Others of more than 15,000 tons are the President Grant, President Lincoln and Kaiser Wilhelm II. Four Austrian steamships also are tied up here.

Since the president delivered his war message to congress the ships have been under a heavy guard stationed by the collector of the port. Their officers have said that lying at their docks since the beginning of the war, these vessels have become so fouled and their slips so choked with mud that it would have been virtually impossible for them to get away unless they were extricated by dredges. At various times there have been reports that the machinery and boilers have been wrecked by their German crews, but of this there has been no official confirmation.

Collector McGovern, after boarding the North German-Lloyd steamer Wilhelm at New London, said that her engines were apparently in good condition.

#### MEASURE OF SAFETY.

**U. S. May Use Ships and Pay for Them or Confiscate Them Outright.**

By Associated Press. Washington, April 6.—Seizure of German ships in American ports, according to official statement today, are

measures of safety for the ships themselves and adjoining property. The crews aboard are regarded as German reservists on Germany territory.

The further question of what is to be done with the fleet now comes up for consideration. Two courses, it was said, are open to the government: the ships may be impressed into service and paid for at the close of the war, or they may be confiscated altogether without violating the terms of the Prussian-American treaty of 1928.

war between the United States and Germany.

All the naval militia and naval reserves were called to the colors with the president's signing of the war resolution.

The war resolution was signed by the president at 1:11 o'clock.

The president also signed a proclamation formally declaring a state of war between the United States and Germany. In the proclamation he called upon American citizens to give support to all measures of the government.

#### NAVY AT ONCE NOTIFIED.

The navy department immediately wireless or telegraphed all its stations, navy yards and ships as follows:

"The president has signed an act of congress which declares that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany."

By the signing of the resolution the war which Germany actually has been making on the United States for many months is recognized in official form, and the United States thus announces to the world its determination to take up what President Wilson characterized in his address to congress as Germany's challenge to all the world, her war against humanity.

Speaker Clark had signed the resolution soon after it passed the house in the early hours of this morning and Vice President Marshall had signed it soon after the senate convened at noon. The engrossed copy was sent at once to the White House. It was waiting for the president when he returned from a short walk with Mrs. Wilson.

#### WILSON APPROVES ARMY PLANS.

In a statement approving the army plans presented to congress by the war department, President Wilson today said the hope of the world is that when the European war is over, arrangements will have been made composing many of the questions which have hitherto seemed to require the arming of the nations.

An army of one million men, no element of which shall have had less than six months intensive training, is the direct object of the administration army bill made public last night. Major General Scott, chief of staff, is expected to go before either the house or senate military committee next Monday to outline the plan under which approximately three billion dollars has been asked to carry out the project.

## Text of War Proclamation

President Wilson's war proclamation follows:

"Whereas, the congress of the United States in the exercise of the constitutional authority vested in them, have resolved by joint resolution of the senate and house bearing date this day that a state of war between the United States and the imperial German government which has been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared;

"Whereas, it is provided by Section 4067 of the Revised Statutes as follows:

"Whenever there is declared a war between the United States and any foreign nation or government or any invasion or predatory incursion is perpetrated, attempted, or threatened against the territory of the United States by any foreign nation or government and the president makes public proclamation of the event, all natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of a hostile nation or government being male of the age of 14 years and upward who shall be within the United States and not actually naturalized shall be liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured and removed as alien enemies.

"The president is authorized in such event by his proclamation thereof, or other public acts, to direct the conduct to be observed on the part of the United States toward the aliens who become so liable; the manner and degree of the restraint to which they shall be subject and in what cases and upon what security their residence shall be permitted and to provide for the removal of those who not being permitted to reside within the United States, refuse or neglect to depart therefrom; and to establish any such regulations which are found necessary in the premises and for the public safety;

"Whereas, by Sections 4068, 4069 and 4070 of the Revised Statutes further provision is established with relation to enemies,

"Whereas, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim to all whom it may concern that a state of war exists between the United

States and the imperial German government, and I do specially direct all officers, civil or military, of the United States that they exercise vigilance and zeal in the discharge of the duties incident to such a state of war, and I do, moreover, earnestly appeal to all American citizens that they, in loyal devotion to their country, dedicated from its foundation to the principles of liberty and justice, uphold the laws of the land and give undivided and willing support to those measures which may be adopted by the constitutional authorities in prosecuting the war to a successful issue and in obtaining a secure and just peace;

"And, acting under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution of the United States, and the said sections of the revised statutes,

"I do hereby further proclaim and direct that the conduct to be observed on the part of the United States towards all natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of Germany, being male, of the age of 14 years and upwards, who shall be within the United States and not actually

naturalized, who for the purpose of this proclamation and under such sections of the revised statutes are termed alien enemies, shall be as follows:

"All alien enemies are enjoined to preserve the peace towards the United States, and to refrain from crime against the public safety and from violating the laws of the United States and of the states and territories thereof, and to refrain from actual hostility or giving information, aid, or comfort to the enemies of the United States, and to comply strictly with the regulations which are hereby or which may be from time to time promulgated by the president, and so long as they shall conduct themselves in accordance with the law, they shall be undisturbed in the peaceful pursuit of their lives and occupations, and be accorded the consideration due to all peaceful and law abiding persons, except so far as restrictions may be necessary for their own protection and for the safety of the United States; towards such alien enemies as conduct themselves in accordance with law, all citizens of the United States are enjoined to preserve the peace and to treat them with all such friendliness as may be compatible with loyalty and allegiance to the United States.

"And all alien enemies who fail to conduct themselves as so enjoined in addition to all other penalties prescribed by law, shall be liable to restraint or to give security, or to remove and depart from the United States in the manner prescribed in the regulations duly promulgated by the president.

"And, pursuant to the authority vested in me, I hereby declare and establish the following regulations, which I find necessary in the premises and for the purpose of safety:

"1. An alien enemy shall not have in his possession at any time or place any firearms, weapons, or implements of war, or component parts thereof, ammunition, Maxim or other silencer, arms or explosives, or material used in the manufacture of explosives;

Continued on Second Page.

States and Germany on the verge of issuance, the probability of other American nations joining this republic in hostilities is pointed to in today's dispatches.

Brazil, according to advices from South America, is trembling on the brink of war with Germany. A German submarine has sunk the Brazilian steamer Parana, with the loss of three members of the crew. Anti-German feeling in Rio Janeiro, as a consequence, is reported intense, and talk of a speedy declaration of war is heard in responsible circles, the advices state.

The little republic of Cuba is another American nation likely to enter the war, following the action of the United States. Havana dispatches forecast the possibility of such action by the Cuban government.

#### U-BOATS IN GULF.

Persistent but hitherto unconfirmed reports of German submarines waiting in the Gulf of Mexico for the opening of hostilities of the United States were further supported today by advices to the American government from Europe.

The full nature of the government's information is not disclosed, but it was received from one of the neutrals contiguous to Germany which has served as a clearing-house for German information since the severance of diplomatic relations.

It was reported that more than a score of German submarines were already in Mexican waters. Persons here who have been giving attention to the subject think the estimate of numbers is high, but feel no doubt that German submarines are somewhere on this side of the Atlantic, most probably in Mexican waters, and that some of them have been there since early in February.

There is no doubt here that if the U-boats are in the Gulf they are being supplied from Mexican shore bases. Those who hold these views also are convinced that something closely approaching the arrangements proposed by Foreign Minister Zimmermann in his celebrated communication intended for Gen. Carranza have been achieved,

and that the whole matter, including the supplying of submarines from Mexican shores, was arranged by Mexican minister Zubaran in Berlin.

#### APPEALS FOR ADVICE.

Appeals for American expert advice and other assistance in prosecuting the war are coming from some of the present European belligerents. Reports from Russia indicate that an American commission of national character would be welcomed there to cooperate in financing munitions and transportation operations.

Italy, likewise, is welcoming American co-operation and the hope is expressed there of help from the United States in the way of credit, food and increase in means of ocean transportation.

In the field of military operations the French have made further progress in one sector of the main battle front. In the separate trenches that the Germans were able to retain in their recent attack in force have been wrested from them by Gen. Nivelle's troops.

German troops, taking the offensive in the Riga region, succeeded in penetrating the Russian positions, but were later ejected. Berlin announces the capture of over 9,000 Russians, 15 cannon, and 150 machine guns in the attack on the Spokhod bridgehead.

## How Government Plans to Raise Huge Armies

By Associated Press.

Washington, April 6.—How the government plans to raise a war army of a million men within a year and of two million within two years was disclosed upon the passage of the war resolution by the house.

A bill prepared by the general staff and approved by the president for submission to congress provides for the immediate filling up of the regular army and national guard to war strength of more than 800,000 by draft unless enough volunteers enlist quickly and for bringing into the service by late summer of the first 500,000 of the new force of young men between the ages of 19 and 25 years to be called to the colors by selective conscription.

In drafting its program the staff recognized the fact that the United States must start at the beginning and train first an army of 100,000 officers and noncommissioned officers to undertake the training of the thousands of youths who will enter the service with no notion of military duty or life.

Expansion of the present regular army to its full war strength of 287,000 enlisted men and 11,700 officers means many new regiments of all arms to be created by dividing existing regiments and filling each half to war strength with volunteers or conscripts. The national guard regiments all of which can be called in the federal service under the existing laws will have approximately 327,000 men and 10,300 officers at war strength. No new regiments of the guard would be organized and the full limit of the national defense act would be invoked to wipe out any distinction between federal and state forces. Here also volunteers would be received and drafted resorted to only when necessary.

Those two steps would provide a total force of 614,000 men and 22,000 officers to be supplemented by a recruit organization for each unit making an additional 200,000 men in training but to be held in reserve to fill gaps in the active army as they occurred.

#### TO REGISTER YOUNG MEN.

For five months these expanded forces will be subject to training of a character hitherto unknown in this country. Simultaneously the registration of all men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five will be carried out with federal, state, and municipal authorities co-operating.

In August or early in September the first 500,000 of this new army composed exclusively of young men summoned to the colors under the principle of universal military service, with those supporting dependents or needed by the nation in civil life exempt, would be assembled for training. From the regulars and national guard regiments would be drawn 100,000 specially selected officers and noncommissioned officers, who would organize, train, and command the units of the new army.

A year from now a second increment of 500,000 youths would be called out, another 100,000 officers and noncommissioned officers would be drawn from the regulars, the national guard forces, or from the first section of the new army to officer and train the second section.

By that time the ministry that had been built up would provide enough trained officers and noncommissioned officers to train a million or more men at a time if that were necessary.

The war department bill, however, proposes to authorize now only the first two classes of the new army.

Continued on Tenth Page.

### THE WEATHER

GET IN LINE BOYS!



#### FORECAST

For Galveston and vicinity: Tonight fair, and warmer; Saturday increasing cloudiness; light to moderate southerly winds.

For East Texas: Tonight fair, warmer; Saturday increasing cloudiness, with showers in the northeast portion, colder except southeast portion.

For West Texas: Tonight fair, colder in Panhandle; Saturday fair, colder.

For Oklahoma: Tonight increasing cloudiness, colder in northwest portion; Saturday cloudy, colder. Winds on Texas coast: Light to moderate southerly.