



The Indianapolis Times

Generally fair tonight and Wednesday, lowest temperature tonight about 34; warmer Wednesday.

HOME

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WRENCH USED TO TAP SUB'S SIGNALS FOUND

Paint Is Worn Off Hull by
Brave Officer Sending
Code Messages.

DISCOVER NO MESSAGES

All of Crew of Forty Lived
Shortly After Crash;
Deaths Peaceful.

By United Press

BOSTON, March 20.—The instrument with which Lieutenant Graham Newell Fitch tapped out messages from the torpedo chamber in the submarine S-4, was found by investigators today.

It was a torpedo socket, wrench, not a hammer.

Secretary of the Navy Curtis D. Wilbur was expected to arrive here at 2 p.m. from Pittsburgh to inspect the S-4. It was not known whether he was coming by airplane or train.

Two members of the board of inspection and three technical advisers, seeking to determine the status of the S-4 at the time of the crash with the coast guard destroyer Paulding, completed their examination of the torpedo room where six men were entombed alive three days.

They failed to find any written messages of farewell. Secretary Wilbur, who has been at Fitchburg, Mass., will visit the Navy yard at 2 p.m. to confer with members of the board about their findings.

The socket wrench with which Fitch pounded his code messages was worn on one end. The handle was bent apparently from the force of the hammerings on the steel plates of the hull.

Couldn't Stay at Posts

The theory that the submarine could have been saved after the crash if the men had stayed at their posts in the control room was refuted in the findings of the investigators.

Had the men stayed at their posts even a minute, they would have died of the deadly chlorine gas which was released when the water poured through the gash into the battery room, adjacent to the control room, the board said.

The S-4, in dry dock here after three months on the ocean floor off Provincetown, had yielded the final eight bodies not recovered by divers, and provided the full story of what happened on Dec. 17, when the S-4 was rammed by the cutter Paulding.

The preliminary investigation furnished much information on the tragic death of the forty men.

They died a peaceful death. Most of them apparently slipped into unconsciousness from partial asphyxiation still hoping to be saved, and died without awakening.

All Forty Lived After Crash

All forty were alive for a considerable period after the sinking of the S-4.

The six in the torpedo room lived the longest. It was they who, headed by Lieut. Graham N. Fitch, courageously hung on for three days and maintained communication with those who tried to rescue them by signal-tapping on the hull.

They died sleeping in their bunks. Only Lieutenant Fitch stayed on his feet, maintaining his morale as an officer in the pitch darkness 100 feet under water, taking care of his men, ordering them to lie quiet to conserve the air, and keeping up the tapping on the hull with the wrench.

The spot where he had worn the paint off the hull by his rappings remained as silent testimony to his heroism.

A small two-celled flashlight, with an ordinary pocket watch attached to the end, was found. Occasional use of the flashlight must have supplied the only glimmer of light the entombed six had after the submarine was struck.

Oxygen in One Tank

Oxygen still remained in one of the tanks, showing clearly that Fitch had been saving it as a last resort and that the end must have come to him unaware, so that he never had the chance to use it.

The hole cut in the submarine by the Paulding was surprisingly small—about one foot by three. It was partly plugged by the bow of the Paulding, which was wrenched off. Capt. E. L. King, in charge of salvage operations, probably would have made within ten days.

WATSON 'DRYNESS' CAN'T BE TRUSTED, CRUSADER ASSERTS

Prohibition Losing Public Sentiment at Alarming Rate, Party Leader Declares at Meeting to Nominate State for Fall Election.

Prohibition is losing public sentiment at an "alarming rate," it was admitted today by Indiana prohibition party leaders in convention here to nominate a slate for the fall election.

"If we go for the next ten years as we have for the last eight, we are in danger of losing the prohibition amendment," declared F. W. Lough of Indianapolis, former State chairman of the prohibition party.

Other speakers were in agreement with Lough's assertion. They deplored lax law enforcement; rallied at George L. Winkler deputy dry administrator for Indiana; placed no more faith in Senator James E. Watson's "dryness" than in Al Smith's, and criticized President Coolidge for trimming down liquor law enforcement appropriations.

They declared the need for a strong Prohibition party with an out-and-out Prohibition President as the only successful means of accomplishing real prohibition in the United States.

"Prohibition philosophy is just as badly needed today as fifty years ago," said Lough. "Lots of folks who stood with the drys, now say they are in doubt."

Second-Hand Thinkers

"It's the second-hand thinker with half-baked thoughts that feels that way. Liquor propaganda is flooding the country and must be fought."

Lough said he and John W. Hudleston, who, he said, had been an undercover operative, city police man and detective, went into southern Indiana and at a "saving of hundreds of dollars to the Government" stacked up liquor evidence against alleged violators in Evansville, Washington, Beaverville and other cities.

"We turned the whole lot—evidence substantiated by responsible citizens—to Winkler up here," Lough shouted, "and later learned it was all dumped into a wastebasket at Evansville. It hurt bitterly to play detective and then be laughed at at headquarters."

Need Strong President

Lough said the Thirteenth amendment outlawing slavery succeeded, because the people voted a President into office who would uphold it.

"But when the Eighteenth amendment was enacted," he said, "the people elected Harding—a man as wet as Al Smith, and he in turn appointed his cabinet Andy Mellon, a big distiller!"

After two hours on the stand for direct examination, Boyce was started on its cross-examination, the method of which was objected to frequently by Prosecutor William H. Johnson said today.

Due to another trial set for criminal courtroom next week, Dorsett's trial may be held in one of the superior courtrooms.

No special venire for Dorsett's trial has been ordered. Three special venires were exhausted before Moore's jury was selected.

Dorsett Next on Trial

Trial of Councilman Walter R. Dorsett on a similar charge, set for Thursday, will follow immediately at the end of Moore's trial. Special Assistant Prosecutor Emsley W. Johnson said today.

Technical High School students tripped lightly across their campus in tune with the pace set by Miss Springtime as she arrived today. Hatless, overcoatless, unglashed, sometimes necktieless youth portrayed the universal happiness that the time of violets and apple blossoms approacheth. Typical celebs in the picture are, left to right: Miss Merle Clark, 37 N. Eastern Ave.; Miss Lowanna Cannan, 3016 E. New York St.; Raymond Huebner, 436 N. Capitol Ave., and Robert Austin, 526 N. Temple Ave.

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