

## U. S. SEEKS ALLIANCE TO GUARD SEA LANES— PRESIDENT TO STATE STAND AT ONCE

Washington, March 20. — Pres. Wilson is expected to outline real status of relations between United States and Germany within 24 hours as his next immediate step in preparing people and country for possible—even probable—hostilities.

A state of war now exists between United States and Imperial German government, it is taken for granted. There are few who believe president will fail to acknowledge this in his first utterance.

Complete proof of Germany's bold affronts on high seas is now before this government — an imposing array of war acts against the United States. Toll in two weeks amounts to four American ships and more than score of American lives sacrificed through utter disregard of the rights of this country.

From all over country telegrams today continued to pour into White House demanding war. Pacifists, for first time since break in diplomatic relations, are conspicuously silent or are admitting that end of patience has been reached.

Washington, March 20. — United States, Great Britain and France will join in guarding trans-Atlantic ship lanes against German U-boats, if present government plans materialize.

Administration expected to begin today the work of informally negotiating with these nations.

With its proposed big fleet of patrol and chaser boats, plus larger navy vessels, the United States will be in a position to offer protection to commerce off American coast, while Great Britain and France will be expected to reciprocate in barred zone.

Navy men believe that submarine menace may be brought directly home; that feasts such as the U-53 performed off Nantucket last summer will be repeated. The navy bears brunt of work, but under surface the

army has shaped plans whereby it can again call out national guard and also provide sufficient officers for training of half a million men.

New York navy yard began work today on 40 submarine chasers, hastily ordered, while tomorrow bids will be opened for 200 or more 110-foot speed boats, available for coast patrols and submarine chasers.

Nothing will be permitted to stand in the way of hastening navy preparedness. The 8-hour law has been cast aside, and if commandeering is needed it will be undertaken.

Mobilization of Atlantic fleet and of the naval militia has been considered for two weeks or more, and it may be necessary to accomplish this before long.

### TWO ESCAPED GERMAN SAILORS BELIEVED DROWNED

Washington, March 20. — Only two men are missing from the interned German ships at Philadelphia, according to the third of a series of messages to the navy dep't today. These men are Lieut. Corth and Machinist's Mate David Schroeder, who are believed to have been drowned. The other men, caught in the waters, were nearly frozen to death.

That the Germans' captain connived in the escape was the view of some officials, especially since the men were well supplied with funds.

The four men who were recaptured were found to have more than \$1,000 in bills and lists of German residents and German sympathizers in Philadelphia and vicinity. These lists were confiscated.

Boston. — Legislature passes emergency appropriation of \$1,000,000 for defense of state in event of war. Signed at once by Gov. McCall.

New York. — Through the National Safety council, 2,800 firms have pledged support to the president.