



ALLY HALTS HUN ADVANCE

BIRKNER TARRED AND FEATHERED BY FELLOW PRISONERS

Convicts in New Mexico Penitentiary Hoot and Maltreat Nebraska Army Officer Who Was Arrested at Camp Cody for Alleged Disloyalty and Held in Default of Bail.

(By Associated Press.)

Santa Fe, N. M., April 17.—Four hundred convicts in the state penitentiary this afternoon tarred and feathered and led around with a rope about his neck Major John M. Birkner, of Camp Cody, Deming, N. M., held in the penitentiary as a federal prisoner in default of \$5,000 bail. He is charged with violation of the espionage act.

Major Birkner, who was born in Nuremberg, Germany, but who had been in the American military forces for more than 30 years, was arrested last Friday at Camp Cody, where he was an officer in the 127th field artillery. His home is in Lincoln, Neb.

LET OUT FOR EXERCISE.

Major Birkner was allowed out in the prison yard for exercise with the convicts. The warden knew nothing of what was going on until he heard loud cheering and rushed out in the yard to find Birkner stripped and covered with tar and feathers. The prisoners with loud hoots were leading him about the yard by a rope around his neck.

Assistant Superintendent Dugan rescued him. The prisoners, evidently in accordance with a pre-arranged plot, had obtained the feathers from their pillows, but where the tar came from is a mystery. Birkner is alleged to have made disloyal utterances such as "You can't beat the Dutch," and "The Germans will sink American transports as fast as they are sent over." Birkner claimed the charges were made in spite by subordinate officers whom he had disciplined.

Birkner Loyal, Wife Asserts.

Lincoln, Neb., April 17.—Major John M. Birkner, who was tarred and feathered by convicts at the New Mexico state prison today, was prominent in the Nebraska national guard for more than 30 years. At one time he acted as assistant adjutant general. Major Birkner's wife, who resides in Lincoln, said today that she recently received a letter from the major in which were statements that he was loyal. She declined, however, to make the letter public.

Fairbury Man Is Mobbed; Applauds in Wrong Place

Prompt action on the part of a government secret service man and a city detective undoubtedly saved R. H. Barnes, Fairbury, from the hands of an infuriated crowd last night. Barnes sitting in the balcony of the Sun theater applauded at the presentation of the Kaiser's picture in one of the scenes of "An Alien Enemy." "We'll dine in Paris, have wine in London and spend a night with Uncle Sam," when shown in the course of the picture is alleged to have brought forth loud applause from Barnes. The patrons of the movie house as one started for the affender and he was thrown bodily down the stairs. He was immediately arrested and taken to the police station. Barnes alleges that he is loyal and has been called in the next draft. He explains his action by saying that he misinterpreted the picture. He was charged with being drunk.

The Weather

Nebraska—Rain Thursday, colder in west and south portions; Friday fair and cool; fresh to strong shifting winds.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.	Wind
5 a. m.	48	fair
6 a. m.	47	fair
7 a. m.	46	fair
8 a. m.	44	fair
9 a. m.	44	fair
10 a. m.	46	fair
11 a. m.	49	fair
12 m.	50	fair
1 p. m.	50	fair
2 p. m.	51	fair
3 p. m.	51	fair
4 p. m.	51	fair
5 p. m.	51	fair
6 p. m.	51	fair
7 p. m.	51	fair
8 p. m.	51	fair
9 p. m.	51	fair
10 p. m.	51	fair
11 p. m.	51	fair
12 m.	51	fair

Comparative Local Record.

	1918.	1917.	1916.	1915.
Highest yesterday	59	78	65	82
Lowest yesterday	44	47	45	36
Mean temperature	52	62	54	69
Precipitation	.02	T	.00	.00
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal				
Normal temperature	51			
Excess for the day	8			
Total excess since March 1	254			
Normal precipitation	.25			
Deficiency for the day	.03			
Total rainfall since March 1	1.21			
Deficiency since March 1	.04			
Deficiency for year, 1917	.25			
Deficiency for year, 1916	.24			

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station and State	Temp.	High.	Low.
Omaha, Neb.	51	51	48
St. Louis, Mo.	51	51	48
Chicago, Ill.	51	51	48
Indianapolis, Ind.	51	51	48
St. Paul, Minn.	51	51	48
Portland, Me.	51	51	48
Boston, Mass.	51	51	48
New York, N. Y.	51	51	48
Philadelphia, Pa.	51	51	48
Washington, D. C.	51	51	48
San Francisco, Cal.	51	51	48
Los Angeles, Cal.	51	51	48
Honolulu, T. H.	51	51	48

HITCHCOCK FAILS IN LOYALTY TEST, PRESIDENT SAYS

White House Opposes Promotion of Nebraska Senator to Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee.

By C. W. GILBERT.

(Washington Correspondent N. Y. Tribune.) Washington, April 17.—(Special Telegram.)—The prospective succession of Senator Hitchcock to the chairmanship of the senate committee on foreign relations raises the loyalty question which the democrats have promised to make the issue of the coming national campaign.

Senator Hitchcock does not pass one of the tests proposed by President Wilson in his letter to Mr. Davies. The senator introduced an embargo resolution forbidding the exports of goods of all kinds to belligerent nations. Unless the administration makes a fight on Mr. Hitchcock, how can it raise the issue it proposes to raise in the coming election?

The administration has another reason why it would incline to make a fight on the ranking democratic member of the foreign relations committee, a much more potent reason than Mr. Hitchcock's course before this country entered the war. And that is Mr. Hitchcock's courage and independence. He does not obey orders.

Seeks His Defeat. If he should be chosen, the chairmanship of two of the most important committees would be in the hands of the two most independent democrats in the body—military affairs, of which Mr. Chamberlain is chairman, and foreign relations, of which Mr. Hitchcock would be chairman.

The administration would unquestionably like to defeat Mr. Hitchcock, but to defeat him in favor of any other democrat is practically impossible, so strong a hold has the rule of promotion by seniority upon the senators. This situation has given rise to the report the administration would take a radical step and urge the election of Senator Lodge, the ranking republican, as chairman of the committee of foreign relations.

Mr. Lodge passes all tests. He was one of the original war men. If (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

SEVENTEEN N. Y. CITIES VOTE DRY; 16 REMAIN WET

Albany, N. Y., April 17.—Returns received up to a late hour tonight from 33 of the 39 cities holding local option elections show that 17 cities voted against the saloon and 16 in favor of licensing the sale of intoxicants.

Old People and Little Folk of Flanders Flee from Homes in Despair as German Blight Spreads Across Their Fair Land

Countryside Peaceful Under Guard of British Soldiers Until Week Ago Transformed Into Living Hell.

(By Associated Press.)

With the British Army in France, April 17.—It is difficult for one in the British war zone to adjust himself to the new conditions here. It all seems like a horrid dream—this spreading German blight across the cultivated plains of Flanders, with their ancient, picturesque villages.

It is but little more than a week since one was free to motor quietly along highways leading through Merville, Bailleul and a score of other nearby places which never lost their charm. Then peaceful farm lands lay freshly turned ready for the spring crops.

DEATH SEEMED REMOTE.

The battle lines were not far to the eastward, but death and destruction seemed remote with walls of khaki clad men guarding the land. Little lads stood at attention by the roadside and saluted as the motors passed and old men and women beamed welcome with the doors of their cottages open.

Within a few days all this has been changed. The plague of war has descended on the countryside. Now one meets his civilian friends—the little folk of the age—from many hamlets making their way sadly back along the broad highway leading westward from the tide of invasion which is driving them from all they hold dear.

HUNDREDS OF HOMES BURNED. By day grim, gray smoke from burning hamlets and from myriad belching guns marks the zone along which are struggling the splendid British soldiers in their efforts to block further inroads of the Hun. By night the skyline is sometimes a lurid blaze, as consuming flames leap up from a hundred homes and great cannon vomit volcanic fire. It is a living hell. It is a part of heretofore untouched Flanders going the way of the devastated regions of the Somme, and so the gentle peasant folk stand and look or wander on. As they go they cannot comprehend it. Its awfulness has numbed their brains.

The correspondent found a little family group crouching beneath huge British howitzers held in reserve. Their eyes were fastened on the mounting columns of smoke which rose from the village whence they came. There were no tears and no words, but the expression on their faces was like that of one just condemned to die.

Many of the refugees know only in a general way whither they go—they are following the lead of military storm. A few cherished belongings are all they carry with them and they cling to these desperately as their last remaining possessions.

Hundreds of Flemish homes have been shorn of their protectors, who have been called to the French colors and for these this has been a time of double terror. Some of the peasants, indeed, cling to their cottages amidst the crashing of the shells until the British soldiers led them away. Some have died by their own hands because they could not be removed.

MANY LEFT IN HOMES. Many people must have refused to be dragged from the homes which they had been keeping so patiently, awaiting the return of husbands or brothers from the war, homes in which there were bedridden invalids, whom their friends had no means of removing without help from the soldiers.

Sometimes there is no way of saving valuables of bulk in towns which come first under the fire of the German troops. Relics and treasures, representing the savings of years, have been abandoned to the flames and plunderers. Many things have been deliberately destroyed by their owners in order that the Germans might not get them.

Joseph St. Lucas, leader of the Union Pacific band, accompanied by Joseph Sesto, Fred Elias and Bert Polley, yesterday complained that County and City Treasurer Endres refused to release Frank Elias, clerk, who was wanted as drummer for the band in a Liberty bond drive over the Union Pacific to Cheyenne.

"We told Mr. Endres that the Union Pacific had arranged the drive from Omaha to Cheyenne and that we would start early Thursday morning and that we needed Elias as drummer. We also told him that Elias would be away only for the remainder of the week. Endres told us he could not spare Elias and he added that one of his clerks was ill. We took the position that inasmuch as this was a Liberty bond drive, we thought he might have stretched a point. We were up for a drummer," Mr. St. Lucas said.

Corroborate Statements. Sesto, Fred Elias and Polley corroborated the statements of St. Lucas.

These men sought the influence of Acting Mayor Butler and City Solicitor Feherty, but stated that even those efforts did not succeed.

"I put the proposition up to Otto Bauman, deputy treasurer, and urged that Elias be released, but received little encouragement. Bauman said he would take the case up with Endres, but I have not heard from him yet," stated the acting mayor.

Bandmen Wrought Up.

The members of the band were wrought up over the refusal of the treasurer to let his clerk off for a few days for a patriotic drive.

Mr. Endres said: "I told the men when they called that I had only two men in the special tax department and that one of them was sick. I would like to have helped them out, but did not see how I could spare Elias at this time. We helped out with several men with the exemption board and want to do what we can, but sometimes it is impossible to do these things."

Peace Movement Again Developing in Austria

London, April 17.—The Cologne Gazette, according to a dispatch from Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph company, prints a report that a strong peace movement is developing in Austria-Hungary circles in consequence of the resignation of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister. Many influential Austrian politicians, the dispatch adds, hold that the removal of Count Czernin affords an opportunity for peace negotiations which had been impossible while the count was minister for foreign affairs.

MISSING COLLIER SAFE, SAYS WIFE OF COMMANDER

Norfolk, Va., April 17.—Mrs. Worley, wife of Lieutenant Commander George Wickham Worley, commander of the missing naval collier Cyclops, came to a local newspaper office tonight and declared that the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the ship and its passengers or crew will be cleared within the next 24 hours.

In one statement Mrs. Worley is quoted as saying the Cyclops was safe in a South American port and an official announcement regarding the vessel would be made shortly.

Navy officials, it was announced today, had become convinced that the missing collier was destroyed or captured by the enemy.

Lincoln's Telescope to Be Used by U. S. Navy

Honolulu, T. H., April 17.—From the far distant Marquesas islands, in the heart of the South seas, a telescope formerly owned by President Lincoln in the days of the civil war is being sent to Washington for the "eyes-of-the-navy" movement.

Colonel J. W. Jones, Honolulu, who is collecting "eyes" in Hawaii, has received word that an aged American resident of the South sea group is forwarding the telescope and a gold watch given to him by Mr. Lincoln. Both are engraved with the martyred president's name.

RESULT OF GREAT LYS RIVER BATTLE HANGS IN BALANCE

British in Powerful Counter Attack Retake Meteren and Part of Wyttschaete, But Retire Again Under Heavy Fire; Germans Claim Capture of Two Positions North of Ypres.

(By Associated Press.)

Out of the chaos of the tremendous battle along the Lys river south and southwest of Ypres, the thunder of which may be heard 40 or 50 miles away, there have come during the past day reports which are encouraging to the allied powers.

The British not only have held all the ground which they were defending Tuesday, but have struck back so powerfully that Meteren and part of Wyttschaete were retaken and held for a time. Only after heavy attacks did the British retire again from the villages.

GERMANS GAIN GROUND.

The most disturbing news has been a report from Berlin that Poelcapelle and Langemark, north of Ypres, have been taken by the Germans and the admission from London that the British have retired from certain of their lines in the Ypres salient. The retirement here was expected for the advance of the Germans at Neuve Eglise and Bailleul left the positions in front of Ypres open to a flank attack.

It is officially stated that the retirement was orderly and it is probable that it will have more of a sentimental than a strategic effect. Just how far the British lines have been withdrawn is not known. It may be, however, that the German claim of taking Poelcapelle and Langemark was the result of the British retirement.

GROWS IN INTENSITY.

The battle now in its ninth day has deepened in intensity at many points along the curved front from Messines ridge to Meteren. There have been reports that the Germans have occupied the village of St. Eloi, which lies less than three miles south of Ypres, but these have not been confirmed. It also was said that they have taken positions on the south slope of Mount Kemmel, about two and a half miles north of Wulverghem. This also has not been confirmed.

On all the rest of the front from Messines ridge southwestward the Germans have flung themselves against the granite wall of the British defense. Official and semi-official dispatches have told of the frightful losses inflicted on the attacking masses of troops by the British rifle and machine gun fire.

On the southern side of the salient there have been engagements of some magnitude, especially east of Rebecq, five miles northwest of Bethune, where the Germans were caught by the British artillery fire and battered. "Teutons Beaten in Front of Arras," "The line in front of Arras has again been the scene of fighting. Here the British took the offensive and drove the Germans out of British trenches which had been carried by the enemy."

In Picardy there have been lively artillery engagements between the Somme and Oise rivers, but only patrol encounters are reported officially. Further south only raiding operations have been going on.

The Turks announce that they have taken the city of Batum, on the eastern shore of the Black sea. They report strenuous fighting before the Russian defenders of the city were driven out.

The Macedonian front has again become active. Greek and British troops have advanced and driven the Teutonic allies from seven towns along the Struma river, on the eastern end of the line. French forces also have been active in this theater of the war.

Mayo Held on \$200,000 Bond For Failure to Pay Alimony

New York, April 17.—Virginia St. Julian Mayo, a wealthy manufacturer, formerly of New Haven, Conn., was arrested here today in default of payment of a \$100,000 court judgment recently obtained against him for breach of promise by Wilhelmina Meyer.

For many years she resided with Mayo as his wife at New Haven.

In March, 1915, Miss Lillian Cook, his stenographer, committed suicide in that city. Publication of the pictures of Mayo and Miss Cook led to disclosures that Mayo maintained a family in Brooklyn—Lois Waterbury and their children—and that in 1896 he married Florence Weeks, who lived at Scranton, Pa., with their children, and who has obtained a divorce.

Mayo today was released under \$200,000 bail and was prohibited from leaving King's county.

Aviation Instructor Injured

When Airplane Falls in Spin

Houston, Tex., April 17.—Earl R. Southce of Binghamton, N. Y., civilian instructor at Ellington field, was seriously injured and an aviation cadet slightly hurt at the aviation camp here today, when their airplane fell about 100 feet in a spin. Instructor Southce is in the field hospital, but his injuries may not prove fatal, physicians said.

Fifteen British Ships U-Boat Toll Past Week

London, April 17.—The losses to British shipping by mine or submarine in the past week totalled 15, according to the admiralty report tonight. Eleven of the merchantmen sunk were 1,600 tons or over and four under that tonnage. One fishing vessel also was sunk.

Twelve vessels were unsuccessfully attacked. The arrivals numbered 2,211; sailings, 2,456.

In the previous week only six British merchantmen were sunk by mine or submarine, four of them of more than 1,600 tons.