



2 DEAD, 18 HURT, FT. OMAHA WHEN BALLOON EXPLODES

U. S. PREPARING TO THROW EVERY RESOURCE INTO WAR

Congress Asked By War Department to Give President Blanket Authority to Raise All Troops Necessary to Win Victory; Lull Continues Along Battle Lines in Europe

(By Associated Press.) America is stripping for the decisive battle in Europe. In an executive session of the military committee of the lower house of congress Secretary of War Baker, Major General March, chief of staff, and Provost Marshal General Crowder have asked congress to give the president blanket authority to increase the United States army to whatever size may be necessary to win the war.

This country now has nearly 2,000,000 men under arms and the army appropriation bill for this year would provide for an increase of this number to 3,000,000.

LULL AT BATTLE LINES. While America's plans for throwing its every resource into the battle against Prussianism are maturing, the lull which has brooded over the western battle lines continues. The expected German attacks on the Ypres and Amiens fronts have not been launched. There and there the opposing armies have broken forth into wild bombardments such as usually are preludes to massed attacks on the allied lines, but they have died out after a few hours. Here and there local operations have been carried out for the purpose of straightening lines and raiding the enemy's positions, but they have not developed into anything unusual.

The Germans must attack soon or acknowledge their defeat in their ambitions utterly to crush the allied armies. Kaiser Has Reserves. The present phase of the battle is not unlike that before Verdun, two years ago, after the first German rush had been stopped and even attempts to carry local objectives had met with defeat.

Germany has lost heavily, but the emperor still has reserves to throw into the fight. The defeat Monday on the Metzer-Voormezeele line southwest of Ypres has taught the Germans that the allies are prepared to stand their ground and there seems little inclination at the present moment to renew a conflict which threatens to be disastrous.

Roumanians Offer Services. The report that Czech soldiers deserting from the Austrian army now are fighting with the Italians has been followed by a dispatch saying that Roumanians who had been captured by the Italians have asked permission to fight against the Austrians and that they are now on the firing line.

The British forces in Palestine have recaptured Es-Salt, a village from which they retired three weeks ago under pressure from a superior force of Turks and Germans. Germans Occupy Sebastopol. A Berlin dispatch says that the fortress of Sebastopol has been occupied by the Germans. This was expected after the capture of Simferopol last week.

Ukrainian peasant deputies are reported to have overthrown the government of that republic. This report follows closely a dispatch saying that many Ukrainian officials had been imprisoned by the Germans for conspiring against the military authorities of the central powers. The new regime has announced that it will carry out the provisions of the Brest-Litovsk treaty.

The Weather

Nebraska: Fair Friday and Saturday, with continued mild temperature. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Table with columns for time of day (5 a.m., 6 a.m., etc.) and temperature readings for various stations and comparative local records.

MISSING WOMAN BURIED UNDER BASEMENT FLOOR

Body of One of Three Reputed Wives of Detroit Suicide Discovered; Had Been Strangled to Death.

(By Associated Press.) Detroit, May 2.—Wrapped in canvas, the body of Irma Pallatinus was found today under the cement floor in the basement of the home here formerly occupied by Helmut Schmidt, whose suicide in the Highland Park jail ten days ago has resulted in an investigation to determine the facts of at least three women who lived with Schmidt as his wife.

Disappeared Two Years Ago. Miss Pallatinus accompanied Schmidt here from Lakewood, N. J., and relatives state that the couple were married in New York. This is disputed, however, by Schmidt's daughter and widow, Mrs. Tietz-Schmidt. The woman disappeared suddenly two years ago.

The discovery was made after the officials had given up excavation work. A workman throwing up a last shovel of earth, uncovered the canvas. The body had been placed beneath the cement floor, which had then been carefully recovered.

Mrs. Schmidt, who was brought before Prosecutor Gillespie late today for further questioning in connection with the death of Augusta Steinbach, who, according to Schmidt, killed herself when he would not marry her, fainted when told of the finding of the body.

COUNCIL REACHES FULL AGREEMENT ON WAR MATTERS

Paris, May 2.—The supreme inter-allied war council met today at Abbaye with Premier Clemenceau presiding. Those present included Premier David Lloyd George of England, Premier Victoriano Orlando of Italy, Viscount Milner, British secretary of state for war; General Foch, commander in chief of the allied armies in France; General Sackville West, General Tasker H. Bliss, American representative at the council; General Belin, of the Versailles committee; Major General Henry H. Wilson, British chief of staff; Field Marshal Haig, General Pershing, British first sea lord, and Vice Admiral De Bon, chief of the French naval staff.

During the two days in which the conference has been in session all military questions of moment were examined and settled in full agreement. The results obtained are unanimously regarded as most satisfactory.

Proposes Punishment of Profiteering Contractors. Washington, May 2.—Profiteering contractors who defraud the government in production of war material would be severely dealt with under a bill ordered favorably reported today by the house judiciary committee. A fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for ten years is provided.

American Sent to Prison For Drilling Men Near Dublin. Dublin, May 2.—William Pedler, an American citizen, was sentenced by a magistrate today to four months imprisonment for drilling men at night near Dublin. At the request of the military authorities the magistrate ordered Pedler deported after he had served his sentence.

"Buy Another Bond" Movement Multiplies Loan Subscriptions

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 2.—Only \$249,000,000 remains to be subscribed to the third Liberty loan to reach the three billion minimum goal and a headquarters statement tonight said "the prospects for an oversubscription are considered hopeful." The total reported tonight was \$2,751,360,700, which did not include subscriptions obtained today. It was an addition of \$172,000,000 in the last 24 hours.

GIANT "SAUSAGE" BURSTS IN HANGAR; SOLDIERS' BODIES HORRIBLY BURNED

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF DISASTER BY COL. HERSEY

Col. H. B. Hersey, commanding officer at Fort Omaha, last night gave out this official statement concerning the balloon disaster at the Florence field: "This is the first fatal accident that we have had since the balloon school opened. A serious explosion occurred at Florence field when one of the observation balloons was being stored for the night. It probably was caused by static electricity produced by the fabric rubbing together. Eighteen men were more or less injured and some quite seriously, but not fatally. These men were burned and received immediate attention of a large corps of surgeons at the Fort hospital. Two men were killed, burned to such an extent that they cannot be recognized and a roll call will be necessary in the morning to establish with certainty their identity. Every possible attention is being given to the injured men, and we have an ample staff of surgeons, nurses and facilities to care for them."

Electric Spark Ignites Hydrogen Gas in Giant Bag as It Is Deflated on Florence Field; Men of Fourteenth Balloon Company Laid Low By Burst of Flame.

Two enlisted men of the Fourteenth balloon company stationed at Fort Omaha were burned to death at 8:30 o'clock last night when a "sausage" balloon exploded in its hangar on the Florence field, one mile north of the fort.

Six men from the company unofficially identified the dead as Fred Beal, 19 years old, and Davis, age 22, and declared they had been recently transferred to Fort Omaha from one of the northern army camps. Beal's home is said to be at Minneapolis.

SEBASTOPOL OCCUPIED BY GERMAN FORCES

Military Rule Established in Kiev, Capital of Ukraine, By Invaders, and Peasantry Ordered to Surrender Estates to Former Owners and Return to Work on Land.

(By Associated Press.) Berlin (Via London), May 2.—German forces have occupied Sebastopol, the great Russian fortress in the Crimea. According to official communication from headquarters, the town was taken without fighting.

London, May 2.—The Germans have established military rule in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, and have arrested a number of the members of the government on the ground that "the government had proved too weak to maintain law and order," according to a Berlin official statement.

LANDLORDISM RESTORED. Among the government officials arrested was the minister of war, the statement said.

Zurich, May 2.—General von Eichhorn, commander of the German forces in the Ukraine, according to a telegram from Kiev, has ordered the peasantry to return all property and effects taken from the land holders and to begin as quickly as possible the cultivation of the great estates.

The order which protects the interests of the land holders, who are mostly Poles and Russians, is opposed vigorously by the Ukrainian rada, which has adopted a resolution declaring that it will not permit interference by German, Austrian or Hungarian commanders in the political, social or economic life of Ukraine and that Von Eichhorn's intervention will result only in disorganization, rendering impossible the consummation of the terms of the economic treaty between the Ukraine and the central powers.

The rada has instructed the minister of agriculture to direct the peasants to disregard the order. Rada Overthrown. Amsterdam, May 2.—The old Ukraine government and rada, according to advices from Berlin, have been overthrown by peasant deputies, who arrived at Kiev, the Ukrainian capital. The new government immediately declared that it adhered to the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty.

The German government, according to a dispatch from Berlin, says it is unable to demand the removal of the red flag from the Russian embassy at Berlin as it has been recognized as the color of the Russian republic. The government made this announcement in reply to protests of conservative members of the reichstag who considered the flying of a red flag in Germany provocative.

Torpedoing of American Hospital Ships Foreseen

London, May 2.—The German wireless, which 47 days ago sent out a dispatch alleging that American aviators were crossing to Europe on hospital ships, reiterates these charges in a longer dispatch today. The reason for the emphasis placed on the false charge by the Germans, it is pointed out here, probably is that they are laying the foundation for justification at a later date of the torpedoing of the American hospital ships in case any such ships are put in the trans-Atlantic service to carry home disabled soldiers. It may be recalled that similar charges were spread broadcast about British hospital ships as a prelude to torpedoing them.

Pope Appoints Bishop For American Army. Rome, May 2.—The pope has nominated the Right Rev. Patrick Hayes, auxiliary bishop of New York, as bishop of the American army at the front.

"SHELLPROOF MACK'S" Gripping Story of Trench Fighting Is Continued on Page Seven of The Bee Today.

HUN ALBATROSS SCOUT SHOT DOWN BY AN AMERICAN

Lieutenant Meisner Victorious in Thrilling Aerial Battle; Lieut. Col. R. H. Griffiths Killed by Shell Fire.

(By Associated Press.) With the American Army in France, May 2.—Colonel Richard H. Griffiths, commanding a battalion of infantry, has been killed by shell fire in Picardy. He emerged from a dugout just as a German shell arrived and exploded directly in front of him.

Lieutenant Colonel Griffiths was with the Fourth Tennessee volunteers. He served also as major in the Philippines constabulary. He was appointed a major in the national army after resigning from the British army. His widow is a Red Cross nurse.

An American aviator has brought down the fourth German airplane along the American front northwest of Toul. Lieutenant James A. Meisner, whose home is Brooklyn, after a thrilling aerial battle at about 15,000 feet, shot down an Albatross scout, which fell in flames.

Lieutenant Meisner is 21 years old and a graduate of Cornell. He came to France a few months ago and qualified as a pilot here.

While he was protecting a photographing plane, a German machine came in view. The day was brilliant with sunshine. A French plane started for the German, but Meisner, who was flying high near by in a speedy Nieuport chaser, made a dive for the German's tail. When within range he opened fire with his machine gun, and the German started a spiral nose dive, but after a few seconds straightened out and started back toward Germany.

Crashes to Earth in Flames. Meisner followed so closely when the German straightened out that the latter's wings tore both of the underwings of Meisner's machine, but at the same time the young American poured a deadly stream of bullets into the enemy plane, which started smoking. Meisner kept up the fire until the German machine burst into flames and crashed to earth.

The American pilot landed safely on his own side of the lines, but the German fell about a mile inside the German lines to the south of Thiaucourt.

Place Heavily Guarded. The bodies of the men killed were buried beyond recognition. Military police stationed in the down-town districts were immediately ordered to return all members of the company who were out on leave in order to complete the check on the dead and injured.

The guard around Fort Omaha and Florence Field was strengthened immediately following the accident and no civilians were allowed entrance to the scene of the accident. An ambulance containing injured men speeding to the hospital from the flying field collided with an automobile near Thirtieth and Joyce streets. One man was injured.

Immediately following the disaster Col. H. B. Hersey, commanding officer at Fort Omaha, gave out an official statement in which he declared that it would be impossible to furnish a list of the dead and injured before morning.

Static Electricity Cause. The balloon was a French type observation bag commonly known as a "sausage." It had just been brought down and placed in the hangar preparatory to deflation when the explosion happened. It contained 35,000 cubic feet of hydrogen, the explosive force of which is about double that of ordinary gas. The shock was felt by persons several hundred yards distant from the scene.

EIGHTEEN MEN INJURED. Two other soldiers were seriously burned and are not expected to recover, according to announcement of army surgeons. Sixteen others sustained burns, but the extent of their injuries could not be determined last night. At midnight one of the surgeons passed through the hospital ward and later announced that all of the injured were sleeping soundly.

The dead men were burned beyond recognition and their identity positively will not be known until a roll call is had this morning. Their bodies were brought to Omaha in an army ambulance and cared for at H. K. Burket & Sons undertaking establishment, 29th and Leavenworth streets.

BALLOON SHED BURNS. Fire immediately followed the explosion and the great balloon shed soon was enveloped in flames. It was burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at \$50,000. No insurance was carried by the government on the balloon or building.

The loss is divided as follows: On the balloon, \$32,000; on the building, \$18,000. All of the equipment contained in the hangar was destroyed. It will require an inventory before the value of this equipment can be ascertained. The Florence field fire apparatus was unable to cope with the flames and the Omaha department was called.

The injured men were rushed to the post hospital where they were given treatment. There are enough doctors stationed at the fort to care for all the injured.

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Officers at Fort Omaha attribute the explosion to static electricity generated by the silken folds of the big bag rubbing together. They declared that the moment the balloon touched the ground there was a discharge and the spark fired the gas. Experts last night stated that atmospheric conditions were especially favorable yesterday to the creation of static electricity on account of the high barometer which had been hovering over Omaha all day. The accident happened.

GERMANS ORDER GREEN BOYS INTO WESTERN LINES. British Headquarters in France, May 2.—(Via Ottawa.)—The German field depots are being heavily drawn upon to replace recent casualties. The Thirtieth German reserve division has just received a company of 250 boys of the 1919-20 class, who had only eight weeks' training and were not to be put into the fighting unless absolutely necessary. But the fact that they are now in the division in the battle line suggests the anticipation that they may have to be used.

Here's the Circulation of the Omaha Papers Of Worthington Place, From 8th to 10th

State of Nebraska } County of Douglas } ss F. S. Dille, being duly sworn, says that on April 6th he took a newspaper census of Worthington Place between Eighth and Tenth streets, Omaha, and that there are 11 houses: 8 houses take THE BEE. 6 houses take the World-Herald. 6 houses take the News. (Signed) F. S. DILLEY. Subscribed in my presence and sworn before me this 8th day of April. (Seal) HILMA DAHLQUIST, Notary Public.

Another Block, Tomorrow Keep Your Eye On The Bee IMPROVING EVERY DAY