

SAMMIES DOWN 3 ENEMY PLANES IN AERIAL SKIRMISH

First Official Communique From American Troops at Front Records Victory Over German Airmen; French Delighted With Initial Report.

(By Associated Press.)

With the American Army in France, May 16.—The first American official communique issued since the American troops entered the fighting line on a permanent basis was issued last night. It reports increased artillery activity northwest of Toul and in Lorraine, as well as the destruction of three German machines by American aviators.

HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE

The statement reads: "Six P. M., Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces—Northwest of Toul and in Lorraine there was a marked increase in artillery activity on both sides.

"Today our aviators brought down three German machines. There is nothing else of importance to report."

An earlier dispatch Wednesday from the American front in France says that Captain Kenneth Marr of California had brought down an enemy airplane and that Captain David Peterson of Honesdale, Pa., had brought down two German monoplanes in the Toul sector.

HAILED WITH DELIGHT

Paris, May 16.—The first American communique was hailed with delight by this morning's Paris newspapers.

"For the first time," says the Matin, "the Americans, who hitherto have contented themselves with issuing a weakly statement of the operations of their troops, furnish a communique at the same time as the other allies. The fact is noteworthy as a fresh manifestation of the unity of the leadership on our front."

A second American official communique, timed 9 p. m., says:

"In Lorraine, patrolling was active and there was again an increase in the artillery fire. Otherwise the day was quiet at all points occupied by our troops.

Inaugurates New Method.

Washington, May 16.—Publication today of the first American official communique, prepared at expeditionary headquarters in France, inaugurated what is expected to be a daily report to the American people on what their soldiers abroad are doing.

In giving out the text of the statement Secretary Baker could not say definitely that one would be forthcoming daily hereafter. That rests with General Pershing.

As to the military situation in the two sectors held by American troops, the communique was exceedingly brief.

Increased activity on both sides, both north of Toul and in Lorraine, were noted with the comment, "nothing else of importance to report." Most of the statement was devoted to official accounts of the daring and enterprise of American officers and men in scouting and raiding operation and in the air.

Three Americans Decorated.

"On May 12 three American aviators were cited in French army orders and decorated with the cross of war," the communique announced. They were Major Ralph Royce of Hancock, Mich., who made the first American reconnaissance flight over the German lines; First Lieutenant Herbert R. Garside of New York, pilot, and Second Lieutenant Paul D. Meyers of Milwaukee, observers, who accomplished an infantry liaison mission April 12, menaced by fire from enemy machines and anti-aircraft guns.

North of Toul, Lieutenant Angel and Lieutenant Emerson were killed by a fall within our lines in an observation plane which they were flying. The accident took place within a cloud and the particulars are not known. North of Toul our aviators today brought down three German two-seater machines, one of our aviators bringing down two and another bringing down one."

Rob Bank of \$10,000.

Madison, Ill., May 16.—Three masked men held up the Tri-City bank in this city at noon today and escaped with \$10,000.

The Weather

For Nebraska: Unsettled and cooler Friday; probably showers. Saturday generally fair; warmer in west portion.

Hourly Temperatures.

| Hour | Temp. | Dir. |
|----------|-------|------|
| 6 a. m. | 65 | W |
| 7 a. m. | 65 | W |
| 8 a. m. | 67 | W |
| 9 a. m. | 68 | W |
| 10 a. m. | 70 | W |
| 11 a. m. | 72 | W |
| 12 m. | 73 | W |
| 1 p. m. | 74 | W |
| 2 p. m. | 75 | W |
| 3 p. m. | 76 | W |
| 4 p. m. | 77 | W |
| 5 p. m. | 78 | W |
| 6 p. m. | 79 | W |
| 7 p. m. | 80 | W |
| 8 p. m. | 81 | W |
| 9 p. m. | 82 | W |

Comparative Local Record.

| 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 | |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Highest yesterday | 87 | 84 | 83 | 83 |
| Lowest yesterday | 62 | 62 | 61 | 61 |
| Mean temperature | 76 | 75 | 73 | 72 |
| Precipitation | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal: | | | | |
| Normal temperature | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 |
| Excess for the day | 13 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Total excess since March 1 | 236 | 236 | 236 | 236 |
| Normal precipitation | .16 | .16 | .16 | .16 |
| Deficiency for the day | .16 | .16 | .16 | .16 |
| Total rainfall since March 1 | .16 | .16 | .16 | .16 |
| Deficiency since March 1 | 4.77 | 4.77 | 4.77 | 4.77 |
| Deficiency for cor. period, 1917 | .31 | .31 | .31 | .31 |
| Deficiency for cor. period, 1916 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 2.34 |

Reports From Stations at 7 P. M.

| Station | State of Temp. | High | Rain |
|-------------------|----------------|------|------|
| Omaha | part. cloudy | 70 | .00 |
| Des Moines | clear | 68 | .00 |
| Lincoln | clear | 78 | .00 |
| St. Paul | cloudy | 64 | .00 |
| Chicago | cloudy | 62 | .00 |
| St. Louis | clear | 62 | .00 |
| Indianapolis | clear | 62 | .00 |
| Washington | part. cloudy | 64 | .00 |
| San Francisco | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Portland | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Seattle | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Denver | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Butte | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Bozeman | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Spokane | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Portland, Ore. | clear | 64 | .00 |
| San Diego | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Albuquerque | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Phoenix | clear | 64 | .00 |
| San Antonio | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Fort Worth | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Dallas | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Houston | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Memphis | clear | 64 | .00 |
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| Atlanta | clear | 64 | .00 |
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| Charleston | clear | 64 | .00 |
| Richmond | clear | 64 | .00 |
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