



HUN REGIMENT ANNIHILATED

16 KILLED 200 HURT IN BLAST

Syracuse, N. Y., Shaken by Two Explosions in War Powder Plant Near City; Flames Out of Control.

By Associated Press. Syracuse, N. Y., July 2.—At least 16 persons were killed and 200 injured and the huge plant of the Semet-Solvay company, at Split Rock, near here, virtually wrecked by two explosions of trinitrotoluol at 9:30 o'clock tonight.

Terrific concussion from the explosions of the war powder rocked large business buildings in the center of this city, smashed the plate glass windows and caused a panic in the residential district.

The explosion followed a fire that had raged beyond control and spread to the "T. N. T." vats. Two men, hurrying workers under an avalanche of debris and scattered flames to adjoining buildings.

Water System Fails. At a late hour tonight the flames were burning fiercely and there was constant danger of more explosions. Volunteer firemen were powerless. Aid was sent from Syracuse, but at midnight the water system broke down.

Five hundred workers were in the plant when the fire broke out. Its origin has not been ascertained. The workers fought the flames and when they ran to safety were caught in the first explosion.

Men were hurled in all directions. Two, caught between burning buildings, were blown through a wall. Still alive when picked up, there was not a shred of clothing on their bodies.

The second explosion followed 15 minutes after the first. The two crumpled buildings in the vicinity. Homes of workmen across the road from the plant collapsed. Burning timbers were blown to the roofs of buildings across the railroad tracks which divide the plant.

Families Flee Across Fields. The families fled across fields in confusion. A woman, hysterical, carried a tiny kitten clutched to her breast.

James Russo and Arthur C. Goodfellow were analyzing samples in the plant when the cry of "fire" called them to building No. 1. Goodfellow tells this story:

"Russo grabbed a hose and I tried to help. Smoke was thick and we could not see. Little explosions kept letting go inside the building. There wasn't enough water to be of any use. "We knew that a big explosion was coming, and we ran. Just as we reached the foot of the hill the blast let go. It knocked us both flat on our faces."

A telephone message from Split Rock brought the first word of the accident to the city. It reached police headquarters in the form of a request for all the ambulances. The shock of the explosion, a few minutes earlier had tied up all the telephone lines, causing a delay before the ambulances were on the way.

Flames Spreading. Both fire and explosions, according to workmen who escaped, were confined to the east side of the plant, which is made up of about 15 buildings, including the offices and laboratories.

There are three of the "T. N. T." plants, in one of which the flames originated. Next to them are six plants in which nitric acid is handled. Beyond them only 100 yards away are four plants in which picric acid is handled. All of these clustered together on the south side of the railroad tracks.

At midnight the flames had eaten into the picric acid plants and were making slow headway toward the giant tanks of oleum.

Most of the small explosions were due, according to workmen, to the contact of flames with small nitro-niters or pulverizers.

Von Below Appointed Austro-German Chief On the Italian Front

Zurich, July 2.—Gen. Otto von Below has been appointed commander-in-chief on the Italian front, according to Munich papers. Another change reported is, Field Marshal Arthur Arz von Straussenburg, chief of staff, is replaced by General Krauss.

General von Below led the Austro-German force in the great offensive along the Isonzo last October.

Swift & Co.'s Income Tax for 1917 \$8,500,000

Chicago, July 2.—Henry Veeder, attorney for Swift & Co., said today that the income tax of that corporation for 1917 was approximately \$8,500,000.

TROOP MOVEMENT SPEEDED UP; CONGRESS POSTPONES RECESS

U. S. OVERSEA FORCE JULY 1 IS 1,019,155

War Department Six Months Ahead of Program; Gives Zest to Fourth, Says President Wilson.

By Associated Press. Washington, July 2.—American troops sent overseas numbered 1,019,155 on July 1.

This was made known tonight by President Wilson, who gave to the public a letter from Secretary Baker disclosing a record of achievement which the president said "must cause universal satisfaction" and which "will give additional zest to our national celebration of the Fourth of July."

The first units—noncombatant—left American shores May 8, 1917. General Pershing followed 12 days later and at the end of the month 1,718 men had started for the battle fields of France. June saw this number increased by 12,261 and thereafter khaki-clad "crusaders" from the western republic flowed overseas in a steady stream, until upwards of 300,000 had departed when the great German thrust began last March.

Movement Accelerated. President Wilson's determination to meet Germany's supreme effort with the utmost of America's available man power to assist the desperately resisting French and British armies is sharply reflected in the movement of troops during the last three months. The March sailings of 83,811 were increased in April to 117,212. May saw another 244,345 men embark and last month 276,372 were sent away, making a total for the three months of 637,929. This, Secretary Baker said later, put the troop movement six months ahead of the original program.

Substantially 30 divisions are now in France ready to meet whatever move the German staff has in preparation. Some of these divisions already are formed into the first field army under Major General Liggett, others are holding trench sectors at important points along the battle line and still others have been broken up and brigaded with the French and British troops. And so when the German thrust comes, the Americans will be called to play no small part in meeting it.

Equipment Adequate. Secretary Baker wrote the president that the supplies and equipment in France for the million men who have gone is shown by latest reports to be adequate and added that "the output of our war industries in this country is showing marked improvement in practically all lines of necessary equipment and supply."

Senators Put Work Above Prayer as War Measure. Washington, July 2.—Consideration of a resolution by Senator Meyers of Montana requesting the president to call upon the nation to pause one minute each day to pray for the success of the war was blocked in the senate today by Senator Thomas of Colorado.

"Let us pray as we work, whether we pray or not," said the Colorado senator in refusing unanimous consent to take up the resolution. Senator McCumber of North Dakota joined in the opposition to the suggestion. "I think we ought to get along a little more rapidly in our war work and pray as we go," he said.

MANY AMERICAN SOLDIERS Kaiser Distributes Iron Crosses Among Yankees By Having Them Pinned on His Brave Troops. NOW WEARING HUN MEDALS

By Associated Press. With the American Army in France, July 2.—The German emperor has distributed iron crosses galore among the American forces holding lines west of Hill 204. The distribution was not direct but via the chests of soldiers Germany considers her best. Having iron crosses is a bad omen for the Americans. Nearly every prisoner taken has one and few retain them. These are probably overlooked during the excitement of battle and the hurry to get the prisoners to the rear.

A few Americans seen today had the enemy medal pinned in the center of their shirts—not on the left side—while others pulled their trophies from their pockets, explaining that they considered them the best souvenirs because they are easily mailed home, while machine guns, rifles and trench mortars are likely to become elephants on one's hands.

The men said some of the crosses had been given voluntarily by the Germans when they asked for them, but others were cut off prisoners' shirts. One small doughboy, who looked less than 20 stepped up to a German officer, taken prisoner, and drew his bayonet to cut off the cross. The officer thought the American intended to kill him and fled.

The American chased him with the bare bayonet in his hand. The small soldier patted the German on the shoulder with one hand, and removed the desired trophy with the other, much to the astonishment of the officer. The American gave the German a cigarette and a match and the bargain was closed.

AMERICAN TROOPS SOON SUPPLIED WITH HOMEMADE CANNON

Washington, July 2.—American-built 155-millimeter howitzers are now moving to France, supplementing the equipment of General Pershing's troops heretofore obtained from French ordnance factories. One American firm which never touched ordnance work prior to America's entering the war is turning out these guns at a rate of 10 a day from a factory the site of which was a flourishing cornfield last August.

These facts were disclosed today to newspaper correspondents from Washington, who visited the new army proving ground at Aberdeen, Md. The howitzers, which are of French design, are of approximately six-inch bore and are the heavy barrage guns which support an infantry advance against an entrenched position. The United States soon will be independent of its co-belligerents for guns of this type.

ITALIANS GAIN POSITIONS IN GRAPPA LINES

Austrian Counter Attacks at Di Val Bella Repulsed and Severe Losses Inflicted Upon Enemy.

Rome, July 2.—Italian forces this morning launched an attack against the Austrian positions in the region of the Grappa mountain front and captured important positions, the war office announced. The Italians took 569 prisoners, including 19 officers and captured many machine guns.

Washington, July 2.—Repulse of strong Austrian counter attacks yesterday upon the newly won Italian positions at Mont Di Val Bella, Col. Del Rosso and Col D'Echele was reported today in an official dispatch from Rome. In addition to more than 2,000 prisoners, the message said 51 machine guns, four guns, 15 trench mortars, several thousand rifles and much other material were captured by the Italians in the Asiago operations.

In counter attacks to clear advance points temporarily penetrated, the Italians troops were completely successful, capturing 127 prisoners, four trench cannon and several machine guns.

Incomes and Excess Profits Taxes for Year Total \$2,821,340,801

Washington, July 2.—Taxes on incomes and excess profits for the fiscal year ending last June 30, levied under the war revenue bill enacted by congress last year, totaled \$2,821,340,801, the Treasury department announced tonight in making public revenue collections from all sources were \$3,671,918,236.

New York led the states in income and excess profits taxes with a total of \$689,917,031, while Pennsylvania was second with \$496,087,261. Nebraska's total was \$11,335,081; Iowa's \$14,634,325.

Mrs. Story Pleads Not Guilty to Fraud Charge

New York, July 2.—Mrs. William Cumming Story, president of the National Emergency society, pleaded not guilty today to the four indictments pending against her charging attempted fraud, larceny, petit larceny and conspiracy in connection with the collection of war relief funds.

"WILD BEAST AT LARGE," MINISTER BONAR LAW SAYS

"Only Thing to Do Is to Destroy It," Chancellor Adds in Comment on Hospital Ship Sinking.

London, July 2.—A thorough search of the waters in the vicinity of the spot where the Canadian hospital ship Llandovery Castle was sunk by German submarines has resulted in no further survivors being found.

An official statement says it may be assumed that only 24 out of the 258 persons on board were saved. Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, speaking in the house of commons, today said that one would have thought that nothing new as regards German brutality could have happened, but the sinking of the Canadian hospital ship Llandovery Castle was an unspeakable outrage. Nothing could be gained, he added, by talking about this last example of frightfulness.

"The wild beast is at large," said Mr. Bonar Law. "There is no use arguing or reasoning about it. The only thing to do is to destroy it. That is the duty, and it is up to all the allies to set their teeth until that end is achieved."

Americans Sought. Maj. T. Lyon of the Canadian medical corps, who suffered severe treatment when taken from the captain's boat and dragged aboard the German submarine, has been brought to this city.

"The Germans," he said, "seemed obsessed with the idea that American aviators were aboard, and it took us some time to convince them otherwise. Almost the first words they used when approaching our lifeboat were: 'Where is the flying officer?'"

"This was when the German commander ordered us to come along side quickly and explained that the slight delay in the darkness was due to an endeavor to rescue a man in the water. Then it was that the German commander threatened us, again asking: 'Where are those Americans?' and then shot over our heads with his revolver and made more threats."

"Captain Sylvester, (master of the) (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)"

Charter Commission Holds First Meeting Since Committee Acts

Harry A. Foster, member of the city charter commission, reported at a meeting of that organization in the city council chamber, that several Omahans have asked him whether the charter makers could include a provision to permit saloons in Omaha.

Member John A. Rine explained that nothing may legally be included in the proposed charter which would contravene any general state law.

The commission held its first general meeting since a committee of five has prepared in a tentative manner a general outline of a charter which will be submitted to the voters next fall. This committee eliminated obsolete matter, such as references to the old fire and police board and the park board.

It is proposed to submit the essentials of the present charter without additions, and amendments will be made from time to time after the working basis has been adopted.

The commission expects to have its charter ready for the printers within four weeks.

Threatens With Empty Gun.

J. C. Simon, 907 North Twenty-first street, was arrested Tuesday night on complaint of his wife, Emma Simon, who alleges he attempted to shoot her. Police say the gun Simon had in his possession when arrested contained no cartridges.

LEGISLATORS' HOLIDAY PLAN STRIKES SNAG

Hopes of Closing Down Before Fourth Abandoned, as Important Measures Pressing for Consideration.

Washington, July 2.—Congress today disposed of much important legislation, but encountered a variety of obstacles in its program to recess this week until August 10. Hopes to close down tomorrow before the Fourth of July holiday were abandoned and while most leaders believed they could recess Friday or Saturday, others thought congress might be held in session indefinitely.

The resolution authorizing the president to take over the telegraph and telephone lines, the \$12,000,000 army appropriation bill, the proposal to increase the government guaranteed price for wheat to \$2.50 per bushel and war time prohibition were among the issues in the complex legislative situation delaying a recess.

Emergency Resolution Blocked. Leaders' plans for beginning the congressional vacation late this week were based on a program of postponing decisive action on all but the army supply measure until congress returns in August. To this end the house today passed a blanket resolution continuing as an emergency last year's appropriations for the army, agricultural department and other government agencies whose appropriation bills have not yet been enacted, but the resolution was blocked in the senate until tomorrow. Technically, the delay in enacting the emergency resolution left the army, Department of Agriculture and a few other government bureaus without funds.

Although Speaker Clark tonight said the recess plans had "gone glimmering" other leaders of both senate and house were not so pessimistic. Their plans were to have the resolution empowering the president to take over telegraph and telephone lines reported to the house and lie over until August. However, if the administration insists on passage of the resolution before the recess is taken, leaders were doubtful of securing a respite for congress at an early date.

Army Bill to Be Completed. Leaders were agreed that the army appropriation bills should be completed before any recess is taken. Slow progress on senate legislative amendments to the bill was made today by the conferees.

Senate and house conferees held another futile conference today on the \$2.50 wheat amendment and adjourned until tomorrow, with house managers indicating a compromise may be suggested in view of the senate's insistence on the price increase.

Senate debate on war time prohibition, set for today, also went over with many leaders predicting postponement of action until after the recess.

In cleaning up pending appropriation bills, the senate, without a roll call, passed the general deficiency appropriation bill after eliminating a provision to add \$50,000,000 to the \$60,000,000 already authorized for housing government workers. The senate ignored a request for \$100,000,000 sent in today by the housing commission. Failure of the commission to use the \$60,000,000 authorized several months ago was the reason given for the senate's action.

GERMANS SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES IN FIGHTING AT VAUX

Important Ground Near Chateau Thierry Won by Americans and French and Held Against Violent Counter Attack; Italians Shift Scene of Offensive and Push Back Enemy.

By Associated Press. Hurling themselves at the tip of the salient driven into the allied lines by the Germans late in May, the Americans and French have won important ground near Chateau Thierry. The attack was local in character, but its success may prove important in the future operations in that part of the battle front nearest Paris.

The assault was aimed at the hamlet of Vaux, which is situated on the south side of the Chateau Thierry-Paris road and on the northern slopes of hill 204. Vaux is about two miles from Chateau Thierry. This was carried by the rush of the French and Americans, who also occupied two small patches of woods in the immediate vicinity.

The Germans almost immediately began counter attacks in an attempt to regain the lost positions, but their efforts failed in every instance. In the initial attack and in their repeated assaults against the new lines held by the allies, the Germans have suffered very heavy losses, at least 500 prisoners having been taken by the French and Americans. One entire German regiment is officially reported to have been virtually annihilated in the battle.

"YANKS" PIERCE GERMAN LINE IN TERRIFIC RUSH

Find No More Huns Opposing Them and Are Held Back by Officers With Difficulty.

By Associated Press. With the American Forces on the Marne front, July 2.—In the successful attack on the Marne front, the Americans paused for a moment, while the automatic rifles and machine guns with the advancing troops fought a duel in front of Vaux briefly but effectively with the enemy.

Then the Americans, whose number was considerable, went on, most of them running in their eagerness to get at close quarters with the Germans. At the same time the Boches began hurling gas shells to the rear of the American lines.

Within a brief time the Americans had wrested from the enemy the Bois De La Roche and the woods adjoining it. Then came the word that the Americans were in Vaux, and finally, after sharp fighting there in the streets and houses, they overcame all resistance and swept on beyond the village.

Line Straightened. The Americans reached every one of their objectives and by this operation they have eliminated a salient and have straightened out their line. Over an area of several miles the Americans now have the enemy under their guns.

Daylight this morning saw the Americans digging in almost undisturbed far beyond the old German defense line. To the rear hatches of prisoners and piles of material are going. The number of prisoners has steadily mounted until it has reached 275. The guns and material have not yet been tabulated.

The fighting qualities of the Americans were certified to by virtually all the prisoners taken. They said the Americans fought like wild men, sweeping everything before them as they plunged over the ground. So fierce was the attack that many Germans who were in the zone as they sauntered their escape by running when the fight got too hot for them and they saw it was impossible either to slow down or halt the American plunge.

The total number of German captured by the Americans is now estimated to number about 500, including seven officers. Many groups of (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

Thrilling Air Battle. A thrilling air battle between nine American airplanes and an equal number of German machines is reported in the Chateau Thierry sector. At least three German planes were destroyed, while two American machines have failed to return from the encounter.

On June 7, the French reported that they had recaptured hill 204, a high dominating the city of Chateau Thierry. It appears, however, that the Germans have been holding at least a part of the height, or that they have, by an attack which has not been reported, succeeded in occupying the hill once more. The allied attack on the north side will tend to make the enemy's position on the hill less secure and may force the Germans to relocate their line from the Marne northward to Torcy, where the Americans have been successful in several fights and have won important ground.

Britons Hold Gains. British forces northwest of Albert have been forced to fight hard to hold positions they took from the Germans Sunday night. A determined attack by the enemy at that point threatened to wrest the captured ground from the British, but heavy counter attacks flung the foe out of all but one of the trenches he had occupied.

The French front west of the Oise and east of Rheims had been a scene of considerable local fighting in which prisoners were taken by the allied forces. The French have re-occupied the village of St. Pierre Aigle, southwest of Soissons, which they lost three weeks ago.

The German official statement of operations along the front says that allied attacks at various points were repulsed. It specifically mentions the attack west of Chateau Thierry as being unsuccessful.

Italians Score Another Success. Italian forces which have been gaining important ground on the eastern side of the Asiago plateau have suddenly shifted their attack to the Brenta river. Important Austrian positions have been carried and nearly 600 prisoners captured by the Italians. Czech-Slovak troops fighting under the Italian flag, have taken part in the struggles of the last few days in the mountains.

There is still no indication that the German offensive is about to be renewed in spite of the fact that it is almost three weeks since the fighting north of Czepek came to a stop. American, British and French forces which have been landed at Kola, on the Murmansk coast, to protect vast stores transported there before the collapse of Russia as a factor in the war, probably will be called upon to face a serious attack soon. Dispatches from Christiania say that German and Finnish troops are pushing northward toward the coast.

Revolt At Municipal Hospital Lands Three Inmates in City Jail. The action of Health Commissioner Manning in putting the lid on smoking and other regulations which the patients declare are too radical considering their past mode of living, led to an open revolt in the municipal isolation hospital at Twenty-second street and St. Mary's avenue, Tuesday night. Three women, Francis Beck, 818 North Sixteenth street, Edie Bennett, giving her address as the Delmar hotel, and Mrs. James Burdick, 818 North Sixteenth street, were removed from the home following the revolt and taken to the police station. They are charged with disorderly conduct.

THE BEE LEADS

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Here Are The Official Figures In Inches (War Dept. Agency Measurements for 1917.) (Haynes Adv. Company Measurements for 1918.)

Table with 3 columns: Publication, 1917, 1918. Rows: Bee (29,458 to 32,705), World-Herald (30,704 to 32,062), News (26,513 to 27,834).

Table with 2 columns: Publication, Gain. Rows: BEE GAIN (3,247), World-Herald Gain (1,358), News Gain (1,321).

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