

DEATH TOLL IN MUNITION PLANT EXPLOSIONS 50

Injured Number 150; Property Loss Twenty Million; Army Officers Investigating Disaster.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Oct. 5.—Army officers investigating the explosions which wrecked the great shell loading plant of the T. A. Gillespie company at Morgan, estimated tonight that the dead would number not more than 50 and the injured 150. The property loss probably will approximate between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

Late today it was believed danger of greater devastation by the blowing up of stores of trinitrotoluol was virtually over. All that substance left unexploded is buried in underground caissons along the bank of Cheesquake creek, upon which the plant is located or is loaded on four barges tied up at the company docks along that stream.

Army officers reported, after a reconnaissance by airplane, that the location of the stores and store-houses is such that they believed there was slight probability it would be exploded either by fire or concussion.

South Amboy in Ruins. With the passing of the menace of an explosion around the plant the problem of caring for the homeless became a serious one tonight.

South Amboy, a town of about 10,000 population, four miles north of Morgan, was virtually wrecked by the series of blasts. Scarcely a building in it remains habitable. Many were unroofed and the walls of others blown in, while every pane of glass was broken. More than 400 citizens decided to spend the night there, however.

The Atlantic division of the Red Cross established headquarters at Perth Amboy this afternoon. Fifty ambulances from New York and Newark, with corps of doctors and nurses, arrived to take charge of the situation. Eight central depots were opened in churches, schools and other public buildings. Commandeered automobiles and cars, driven by members of the women's motor corps from New York and New Jersey, were sent out to pick up fleeing refugees and bring them back to the depots for shelter. The Red Cross brought in from New York five motor trucks loaded with six tons of supplies. The city and all the territory around Morgan was under military control with the state guard in charge under the personal direction of Governor Edge.

Women Panic-Stricken

Women who had been wandering about the streets all day, many of them with children in their arms, received the reassuring news with almost hysterical relief. The greatest difficulty has been experienced, however, in quieting the fears of those who have been vainly seeking news of husbands or relatives who had been at work in the plant when the first explosion occurred.

The cause of the first explosion has not been definitely determined and probably will not be until the army completes its investigation which is already under way. Officers do not believe, however, that it resulted from over-heat. T. N. T. They are equally positive it could not have been the work of German spies, for they declare the plant was the best guarded in the United States. All employees had been carefully investigated by the secret service and they have been constantly supervised.

J. W. Faust, assistant director of civilian relief of the Red Cross estimated that more than 7,000 persons had been made homeless by the hail of shells and the force of the explosions. He believed between 40,000 and 50,000 more had fled from their homes, fearing disaster, and would not return until all danger is over. They present almost as much of a problem as those who are actually homeless.

Although South Amboy was hardest hit by the blasts, many farmers even nearer to the scene of the disaster were heavy losers. The homes which had been theirs before the war began and the shell loading plant was built, were demolished.

Officers and enlisted men had risked their lives for hours trying to determine whether the stores of explosives in the warehouse or on the barges were in danger from the flames which had swept through the hundreds of buildings of the plant which covers 2,700 acres, but they had failed.

The signal corps was asked to provide an airplane for observation purposes and one arrived late in the afternoon, manned by Major H. L. Armstrong and Captain W. W. Watson. The machine circled around the big tract surrounded with barbed wire to aid the scores of armed guards in keeping out trespassers.

Promptly upon hearing that the plant would be rebuilt at once, women employed in it and who came here to escape danger, held a meeting and decided unanimously to return to work as soon as the call comes.

"Many of us have boys over there," said the chairman, "and we are all anxious to do our part to aid in bringing the war to a speedy close. All of us know the danger to which we are almost constantly exposed, but it is nothing in comparison to that of our boys at the front. We want them to know there will be no delay as far as we are concerned."

Mrs. Coles Obtains Divorce from Husband in Prison

The fact that her husband, William Coles, was convicted of grand larceny in Iowa in December, 1917, and sentenced to the penitentiary for five years, won Mrs. Ruby Coles a divorce decree in district court Friday.

Other divorce decrees granted were: Ruth Davis from Arthur, on grounds of nonsupport; Bertha Hart from Harold, cruelty and nonsupport; Susie Wilson from William, desertion; and Gladys V. Dingman from George L., cruelty.

Entente Allies Are Asked by Guns to State Peace Terms

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premier, it is added, possibly will be Professor Lammasch, with whom negotiations are under way to bring about a great pacifist manifestation.

Dr. Eduard David, socialist leader of the reichstag, has been appointed German under secretary for foreign affairs, according to advices received by Dutch papers from Berlin.

SAXON CROWN COUNCIL CONVENES.

Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 5.—A crown council for the kingdom of Saxony was convened in Dresden on Wednesday, according to German advices. The decisions taken are not known, but they are believed to be connected with new developments in the internal political situation in Germany.

VISITS NEUTRAL AMBASSADORS.

Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 5.—Prince Maximilian of Baden, the new German imperial chancellor, yesterday visited the Austro-Hungarian, Turkish and Spanish ambassadors at Berlin, according to the German press. The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin says that the speech which Prince Maximilian will make today in the reichstag will be an important one.

CONSTITUTION TO BE REVISED.

Berne, Switzerland, Oct. 5.—Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has declared to the deputies of the German nationalist group that the internal conditions of Austria demanded a revision of the constitution, according to the Nouvelle Presse Libre. The fundamental terms of the revised constitution, he declared, should be an agreement between the various Austrian nationalities. Thus far, the newspaper adds, the Czechs and Jugo-Slavs have refused to collaborate in the proposal to revise the constitution.

WILHELM THANKS VON HERTLING.

Amsterdam, Oct. 5.—Emperor William, in his autographed letter accepting the resignation of Count von Hertling as imperial chancellor and conferring upon him the decoration of the order of the Black Eagle, wrote:

"After accepting today your resignation I feel constrained once more to express to you my warmest thanks for the self-sacrificing faithfulness with which in grave times you responded to my call and, in the position of responsible leader of the government, rendered to me and the fatherland eminent and successful service.

"As an outward sign of my especial acknowledgment, I have conferred upon you the high order of the Black Eagle. Always your grateful and well disposed.

(Signed)

"WILHELM, IR."

NEW YORK CITY GIVEN SCARE BY POWDER BLAST

(Continued From Page One.)

thousand police reserves were hastily summoned to their respective precincts and 89 hospital units of 125 persons each were notified to hold themselves in readiness for instant service.

The explosion failed to materialize. Meanwhile, the subway and elevated terminals were jammed with seething masses of humanity which wanted to go home and could not understand why they were not allowed to do so. The confusion was increased by bewildered police who sent subway passengers to the elevated and visa versa. Various conflicting statements were issued regarding the source of the report of the impending explosion in explanation of the action of the authorities. Embargo Lifted After Two Hours.

The confusion lasted two hours until the embargo was lifted. It was stated tonight that a report had been received to the effect that 80,000 tons of trinitrotoluol were likely to explode at any moment. This was later reduced to 80,000 pounds and then to 8,000. Finally, information was received that the wind had changed, enabling the firefighters to begin removal of the explosives. It was also stated that Mayor Hylan had acted on advices from authorities at Washington.

The Washington officials, however, denied issuing any such warning. Then it was said that a fire guard in Brooklyn had notified the police that New Jersey officials had told him of the impending disaster.

The extensive preparations for a catastrophe were not without a beneficial result, however, for they caused the opening of thousands of homes and consequent airing of windows and offices, a step which had been ordered by the local authorities in their fight against Spanish influenza.

71,000 Turks Taken Prisoner by British in Palestine and Syria

London, Oct. 5.—Seventy-one thousand Turks have been taken prisoner by General Allenby's forces since the commencement of the British operations in Palestine and Syria, according to official statement issued tonight by the war office. This is in addition to 8,000 prisoners claimed by the Arab army.

Three hundred and fifty Turkish guns were taken.

Teuton Allies Are Striving Hard to Save Constantinople Road

London, Oct. 5.—The Germans and Austrians, the Daily Mail says, are making great efforts to place a new army in Bulgaria in order to hold the railroad to Constantinople. Men are being drawn from 34 German and 12 Austrian divisions in Russia, but the divisions generally are poor in quality and weak in numbers. Their chief aim, the paper adds, is to maintain land communications with Constantinople and to prevent the allies from getting in touch with Roumania.

Turkey, concludes the Daily Mail, will be the prize of the army which wins the race for the railroad.

Comparative Local Record.

Highest yesterday	62	58	45	64
Lowest yesterday	44	44	30	37
Mean temperature	52	50	38	50
Precipitation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal:				
Normal temperature	50	50	38	50
Excess for the day	12	8	7	14
Total excess since March 1	479	479	479	479
Normal precipitation	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Deficiency for the day	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Total rainfall since March 1	11.64	11.64	11.64	11.64
Deficiency since March 1	11.56	11.56	11.56	11.56
Deficiency for cor. period, 1917	4.84	4.84	4.84	4.84
Deficiency for cor. period, 1917-18	11.16	11.16	11.16	11.16

YIELDING ONLY PATH TO PEACE

(Continued From Page One.)

garia. In the meantime every effort and suggestion is regarded as nothing more than a continuation of the long waged peace offensive, for the recent reorganization of the German cabinet is not regarded as indicating any real change of heart in Berlin or as making the actual masters of Germany any more worthy of trust.

Prince Maximilian's predecessors, leading through various shades of arrogance and concessions, down to von Hertling, could not humble themselves to the point of dealing with the enemy on the basis of confessed defeat for the German arms. In the official view here Maximilian hopes to find a way to save Germany from this abasement without completely abandoning the idea of a negotiated peace.

Would Exact Guarantees.

Analyzing the propositions which he is expected to make, officials find that they are in general a combination of the ideas set out in the Reichstag resolution of July 1917, with those of Count Burian, the Austrian foreign minister, and with some concessions demanded by the social democrats at their latest meeting. Regarding the first, looking to an immediate suspension of hostilities, it is suggested that an armistice might be granted, or rather a suspension of attack by the allies agreed to, long enough to permit the central powers to effect withdrawal of their military forces from all occupied territory, but even in such case, adequate guarantees certainly would be exacted for the honest performance of this obligation by Germany and Austria.

Conference Inacceptable.

The proposal to send plenipotentiaries in a neutral place to discuss questions of a league for international arbitration and disarmament is regarded as a transparent effort to anticipate the peace council and probably would not be entertained for a moment for that reason. The same objection lies against discussion of the federalization of Austria, the right of self-determination of the Russian border states, restitution and indemnification of Belgium, autonomy of Alsace-Lorraine and the return of the German colonies. It is not doubted that the reference to Belgium attributed to Maximilian involves payment of an indemnity by joint contribution of all the powers, an idea already scornfully rejected by the entente, and autonomy for Alsace-Lorraine in the German scheme probably means a plebiscite, which would not return those provinces to France, now that nearly all the adult male French population has been driven out.

The reported intention of Germany, Austria and Turkey to seek President Wilson's good office to arrange an armistice, like the other moves said to be impending would be received here is nothing more than a continuance of the efforts instituted by Count Burian as far back as last January, and repeated several times since, to trip the entente into concessions by a professed acceptance by the central powers of the terms of settlement laid down by President Wilson.

"Glad to Be Over Here, Help Y Fund," Writes Omaha Boy in France

Private Milton F. Egen of the medical corps has arrived safely in France, according to a letter written "within earshot of the big guns" to his mother, Mrs. Q. N. Egen of 3216 South Fourth Street.

The soldier said he had an eventful voyage across the "creek" and that he is glad to be over "here." He requested the Omaha papers sent to him.

Anticipating the coming Y. M. C. A. drive he urged that everyone contribute "his bit" as that organization was "making good."

Arrives Overseas.

Lt. Carl A. Abrahamson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Abrahamson, 1210 South Twenty-seventh street, has arrived safely overseas, according to information received by his parents. He was formerly attached to the Omaha ambulance unit, but has been transferred to the infantry.

Airplane Bombs Hospital; Kills Many French Soldiers

Paris, Oct. 5.—Many French soldiers were killed or injured when a German airplane bombed a hospital at Chalons on the night of October 1-2. At the time of the raid German prisoners were being sheltered in the cellars of the hospital.

SOUTHERN WALL OF HUN DEFENSE BEING CRUSHED

Americans and French Deliver Heavy Blows West of Rheims; Menace the German Lines.

By Associated Press.

American and French troops are crushing in the southern wall of the German defenses with heavy blows along the front from west of Rheims to the Meuse.

In the north, under the menace of the British pressure from Flanders to north of St. Quentin, the enemy has set fire to Douai and other towns and villages in that area, evidently in preparation for a retirement to the French frontier. Heavy explosions also have been heard.

Closing Mouth of Pocket.

With the French covering the western outlet of the Grandpre gap through the Argonne forest, the Americans in an advance of three miles between the Meuse and the Aire are rapidly closing up the eastern entrance to the pass. General Pershing's men in smashing blows Saturday realized a considerable advance all along the front and took additional villages and heights from the Germans. The enemy resistance was most stubborn as on this front the Germans are standing on the Kreimhilde line, the last of their prepared defenses.

The Americans are advancing toward Sedan and the great communi-

Physicians Diagnose Latest War Disease as the "Airplaneneck"

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 3.—A new "disease," alarming to parents, because they thought it was the mumps, but quite enjoyable to childish victims, because it kept them out of school, has been diagnosed here as "airplaneneck."

In various sections of southern California, where there are several government aviation and balloon schools, the "disease" made its appearance with children as the principal sufferers. Swelling of glands in the neck caused parents to believe their offspring to have the mumps. Physicians, however, soon diagnosed it probably as the result of looking up at the many airplanes and balloons which continually dot the sky.

Since the way the "disease" was caught was by looking at airplanes and balloons, physicians, promptly declared the way not to get it was not to look at them or, if one were unable to resist, to lie on one's back while looking.

Newspaper Man Injured By Piece of Shell

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 5.—(By Associated Press)—Joseph Timmons, correspondent for a Los Angeles, Cal., newspaper, while watching the battle from a hill in the region of Epinville, was wounded in the right cheek by a shell fragment this afternoon. Other correspondents assisted Timmons to a field dressing station. Later he went to a town back of the battle area, where his wound, which is not serious, was dressed.

ITALIAN TROOPS PURSUE FLEEING FOE IN ALBANIA

Austro-Hungarian Forces Suffer Defeat in Attack on Mountain Front of Northeastern Italy.

Rome, Oct. 5.—Italian columns pursuing the retreating Austro-Hungarians in Albania yesterday passed beyond the Lyshunia river and reached the rivers Kavaya and Poloivn. The Italians are continuing their advance toward Elbasan, 30 miles northeast of Berat, according to an official statement issued by the war office today.

More than 7,000 Bulgarian troops facing the Italian positions on the Monastir-Kechevor road surrendered October 3. Much booty was captured by the Italians.

Austro-Hungarian forces yesterday launched an attack against the Italian lines north of the Grappa, on the mountain front of northeastern Italy. The war office says that the enemy was repulsed all along the front of attack except at one place where the Austro-Hungarians gained a footing.

10,500 Taken Prisoner Upon Flanders Line in Single Week

Havre, France, Oct. 4.—In the operations in Flanders since September 28 the Belgian, British and French forces have taken 10,500 prisoners, 350 guns and 600 machine guns, says the official statement from the Belgian war office tonight.

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