

65 Dead Following Explosion at T N T Plant

Fair and probably warmer to-night and to-morrow.

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3,000 GERMANS WIPED OUT AT VAUX, SAYS PERSHING

J. GORDON BENNETT'S WILL LEAVES FORTUNE TO FOUND HOME FOR NEWSPAPER MEN

Bequest Made as Memorial to His Father, Founder of the Herald.
WIDOW \$50,000 A YEAR.
Her Son Ronald Gets \$20,000 a Year—Mrs. Isaac Bell's Children Remembered.

The will of the late James Gordon Bennett, which was filed to-day for probate in the Surrogate's Court at Manhattan, disposed of an estate estimated at \$25,000,000 and contained several surprising features.

The three named, Eugene Higgins, Rodman Wanamaker and James Stillman, the last has died since the drawing up of the will on Nov. 11, 1916, and Mr. Higgins is said to be in Paris, where he is the best known American banker. The will provides that the executors may fill vacancies; this means that until Mr. Higgins comes from abroad to consult with Mr. Wanamaker, the latter has sole directing charge of the two Bennett newspapers here.

A prior will, drawn in France and disposing exclusively of the property of the testator which is located in France, is designed to stand.

2,170,400 IN U. S. ARMY; 212,034 14 MONTHS AGO

280 Combat Planes Produced Up to June 8 and 2,000 Liberty Motors Delivered.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—Supplementing President Wilson's announcement that more than a million American troops have embarked for France, Chairman Dent, of the Military Committee, laid before the House to-day a review of war preparations during the fifteen months of war, prepared by Secretary Baker. It showed that there are now 2,170,400 officers and 2,010,000 men with the colors, compared with a total of 952,400 officers and 202,510 men in the Regular and National Guard fourteen months ago.

The statement shows that 286 combat airplanes had been delivered up to June 8 and that the production rate of this type then was 80 per week. More than 2,000 Liberty motors have been delivered and the weekly production rate was 115 during the first week in June. Up to June 8 4,495 elementary training planes and 820 advanced training planes had also been produced, and 2,750 machine guns were delivered for use on airplanes.

GERMANY DODGES BLAME FOR SINKING OF HOSPITAL SHIP

Says Llandoverly Castle Probably Was Sent Down by British Mine, Despite All Evidence.

AMSTERDAM, July 2.—The sinking of the British hospital ship Llandoverly Castle, announced by the British Admiralty to have been sent to the bottom by an enemy submarine off the Irish coast on June 27 with the probable loss of more than 200 lives, was due to her striking a British mine, in all probability, says a semi-official note from Berlin received here to-day.

"Take all similar assertions of the British Admiralty," the note reads. "The assertion in this case that a German submarine was responsible for the fate of the Llandoverly Castle is also probably incorrect. It appears from the later news that no one on board the steamer observed a U boat or a torpedo. In all probability the cause of the loss will be found to be attributable to a British mine."

22,000 TO SEE KING THROW FIRST BALL AT GAME IN LONDON

Former Red Sox, Tigers and Athletics in American Army-Navy Line-Up.

LONDON, July 2.—American baseball players who will take part in the Army-Navy baseball game here to-morrow have a regular old fashioned Fourth of July celebration planned for them. The men will have lunch at the Savoy and then will drive to Chelsea Field, the famous football field, in four-in-hand teams, ho coaches. King George will throw out the first ball. The attendance is expected to be 22,000.

The betting favors the Army, owing to the fact that the team has not yet met with a defeat and has won eight games. The Navy has won three and lost four. The Army team is leading the league and the Navy team is in fifth place.

Hero Penneck, who started his baseball career with the Athletics, will be among those present in the Navy line-up. He was one of those members of the Boston Red Sox who left the club to enter the Navy last summer. He will pitch in opposition to LaFitte, formerly of the Detroit Americans and of the Federal League.

The line-ups will include besides Penneck and LaFitte, McNally, who was utility infielder for the Red Sox before he entered the Navy; Van Natta, a former Western Leaguer, and Fuller of Harvard University. The complete line-ups follow, not in their batting orders:

Army—Sergeant Manders, St. Louis; left field; Private George Howlands, Martinsburg, W. Va., right field; Lieut. F. C. Wios (Capt.), San Francisco, centre field; J. Tobes, Toledo, first base; Private Dorn, University of South Carolina, second base; Private R. C. Blackmore, Dewagiac, Mich., shortstop; Corp. J. E. Duhlynn, Brooklyn, third base; LaFitte, Detroit Americans, pitcher; Bart Holeymy, Portland, Ore., catcher. Private Montgomery, Altoona, Pa., reserve pitcher; Private W. Ackersen, Washington, D. C., utility.

IDEAL WEATHER PROMISED FOR HOLIDAY TO-MORROW

Higher Temperature Forecast Following Unseasonable Coolness of Recent Days.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—Ideal Fourth of July weather was predicted by the Weather Bureau to-day for almost all sections of the country for to-morrow. The only indication of a flaw was in the Upper Lake region, where showers were predicted for the upper part of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

There was prospect that the weather would be somewhat warmer than the unseasonable coolness that has prevailed.

65 MEN KILLED AND 50 INJURED IN TNT BLOW-UP

Syracuse Thrown in Panic by Explosion at Semet-Solvay Plant.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., July 2.—Sixty-five persons are dead, more than fifty are injured, of whom ten or fifteen are expected to die, and the property loss is estimated at \$750,000 as the result of the fire and explosion in the TNT plants at Split Rock last night.

Fifty bodies have been brought into the city and the relief workers at the scene were waiting for the wreckage of the plants to cool to resume the search for more.

Fire, raging for nearly an hour before the initial explosion, saved the lives of probably hundreds of men. When the blaze was seen to be beyond the control of the fire fighters every employee was warned away from the building and the majority, realizing the extreme danger, raced for a zone of safety.

The firemen and scores of the workers however remained close to the scene and when the blast came the bodies of one group of fire fighters were hurled in the air.

The explosion shook Syracuse and threw the city into a panic. Calls were sent from Split Rock for ambulances and doctors. Solvay Guards, State troopers and others formed a cordon about the property, barring entrance to all but a few who responded to the calls for help.

Besides the buildings of the plant, the small homes of workmen about the hillside and in the valley were wrecked. Many women in these houses had narrow escapes.

While there were rumors of incendiaries and also that he fire was started by German spies, this theory had nothing to confirm it, although an investigation will be made.

According to one workman taken to a local hospital and who was employed in what is known as the pulverizing plant, the fire started in a pulverizer. There the T N T, which is soluble in water, is washed in vats heated to a temperature of 125 degrees and then poured into vats close by and kept at the same temperature for a short time, when the crystallizing process takes place rapidly.

The heavy crystals then are fed through the pulverizing machine which reduces them to a powder much the same consistency as confectioner's sugar.

Until this process has been completed, the danger is very slight, the workman stated, and the men in that building were not worried any about the fire.

They stayed around to aid and watch the efforts of the firemen. The extreme heat of the blaze which, he said, was caused by a spark from an over-heated gearbox, must have reduced the partially completed T. N. T. to an explosive condition and the first terrific blast followed.

60 MACHINE GUNS IN U. S. BOOTY; ITALIANS TAKE 1,900 AUSTRIANS

ITALIANS RENEW OFFENSIVE, ADVANCE 2,000 TO 3,500 YARDS ON 8-MILE LOWER PIAVE FRONT

Fight Way Forward Against Desperate Resistance. While French Troops Make Brilliant Raids on Asiago Plateau.

LONDON, July 3.—The Italians have undertaken a new offensive effort on the lower Piave, it was learned from an authoritative source to-day.

Between the old and new Piave they advanced from 2,000 to 3,500 yards on an eight-mile front, it was stated.

ROME, July 3.—Italian forces along the Lower Piave delivered a number of hard strokes at the Austrian defenses yesterday, fighting their way forward against desperate enemy resistance, the War Office announced to-day. The advance was over the difficult terrain near the river's mouth, which is partially flooded. Nineteen hundred prisoners and many machine guns were taken.

French troops were active yesterday on the Italian front, carrying out brilliant raids from their positions on the Asiago Plateau as the result of which prisoners were taken.

At the head of the Sante Lorenzo Valley the Italians withstood an enemy counter-attack and took 621 prisoners and much material, the War Office reports.

VIENNA, July 3.—Italian troops, supported by naval forces, attempted to cross the Piave near its mouth yesterday, says to-day's War Office statement. The attempt was a failure, as was another effort by the Italians to effect a crossing of the river further north, near Zenson, it is declared.

The Italians succeeded in effecting a slight gain of ground near Chiesanuova, northeast of Capo Sile.

The futile attempt of the enemy to land his infantry on the easterly side of the Piave was made near Revedoli, close to the Adriatic.

The Italians preceded their attack by an intense bombardment of the entire Piave front southward from Sussegna (about 28 miles), the bombardment increasing to drumfire at points in the southern sector. After a few hours of this shelling the Italian infantry advanced in the area near the river's mouth.

WILSON SENDS GREETING TO EVERY U. S. FIGHTER IN HOSPITAL IN BRITAIN

Red Cross to Transmit Personal Fourth of July Message of Sympathy and Good Wishes.

LONDON, July 3.—A message of personal greeting from President Wilson will be delivered to-morrow by the American Red Cross to every American soldier and sailor in hospital in Great Britain.

The message follows: "The American Red Cross has received from President Wilson a request to send to you his personal greetings on this Liberty Day, the greatest of our American holidays, and to say that his heart goes out to you in sympathy and admiration for the spirit and devotion which you and your comrades have shown. He hopes with all his heart that you will have a quick and happy recovery."

WOOD OF THE AMERICANS NEW NAME OF BELLEAU, IN TRIBUTE TO CAPTORS

Official Announcement Made by French General After Review of Victorious American Troops.

PARIS, July 3.—The General commanding the French Army in the Bois de Belleau region, on the Marne front, on reviewing the American troops returning from the attack on that position, announced that the Bois de Belleau hereafter would be known as the Bois des Americains.

FIRE ON HUDSON BOAT ALARMS 400 PASSENGERS

ALBANY, July 2.—The steamer Troop of the Hudson Navigation Company's Hudson River Line was undergoing repairs at her dock here today after an exciting time aboard her last night when she was in midstream on route from New York. Four hundred passengers were aboard, who immediately became panicky. Smoke filled many staterooms.

It was necessary to stop the engine as the fire pumps could be started and, consequently, the lights went out. Damage was estimated at about \$1,000.

Pershing Announces That the German Losses in Latest Battle Were Very Heavy, While American Casualties Were Relatively Slight.

[AMERICAN REPORT] WASHINGTON, July 3.—Gen. Pershing's communique for yesterday announces that one German regiment (3,000 men) practically was annihilated in the heavy losses inflicted by the Americans when they stormed and held the village of Vaux, the Bois de la Roche and neighboring woods, advancing the American positions a thousand yards on a mile and a half front.

War material captured included some trench mortars and over sixty machine guns. Three American aviators are reported missing from squadrons which participated in fighting northwest of Chateau-Thierry. Following is the text of the communique:

"Section A—Yesterday afternoon in the Chateau-Thierry region our infantry, with effective co-operation from our batteries, stormed the village of Vaux, the Bois de la Roche and the neighboring woods. The attack was made in co-operation with the French on our right, who advanced their line on Hill 204. Our own positions were advanced on a front of a mile and a half to a depth of one thousand yards. The enemy's losses in killed and wounded were heavy. His regiment holding the sector attacked offered obstinate resistance and was practically annihilated. Our losses were relatively slight.

"A German counter-attack made early this morning was entirely repulsed. The enemy again suffered severely and left additional prisoners in our hands. The prisoners captured in the attack and counter-attack number over 500 and include six officers. This increases the total of prisoners taken by our troops in this vicinity during the last month to nearly 1,200.

"The material captured by our troops during yesterday afternoon includes trench mortars and over sixty machine guns. The day passed quietly at other points.

"American aviation squadrons co-operated with our troops in the action northwest of Chateau-Thierry. Three of our aviators did not return."

FRENCH ADVANCE THEIR LINE BETWEEN THE OISE AND AISNE

Gain a Half Mile on a Two Mile Front and Take 220 Prisoners—Alsace Attacks Repulsed

[FRENCH REPORT] PARIS, July 3.—French troops last night attacked the German positions along a front of two miles north of Moulin-sous-Toutvent, between the Oise and Aisne, and improved their positions.

The French troops penetrated the German positions to a depth of half a mile. So far the number of Germans taken prisoners in this operation has reached 220.

West of Chateau-Thierry, on the Marne front, a German counter attack in the region of Vaux was checked by the French fire. Other German attempts to advance north of Moncel and in Upper Alsace were without result.

The text of the official statement issued by the French War Office says:

"Between the Oise and the Aisne we executed a local operation north of Moulin-sous-Toutvent. Our troops captured German positions on a front of three kilometres and attained a depth of 800 metres. The number of prisoners at present enumerated is 220.

"West of Chateau-Thierry a German counter-attack in the region of Vaux was checked by the French fire. Prisoners remained in the hands of the French.

"Other German attacks northeast of Moncel and in upper Alsace obtained no results. The night was calm on the rest of the front." American losses in the battle around Vaux were very light. In the

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