

Wilson Agrees to Allied Action in Russia; German Ambassador Murdered at Moscow

Mitchel Killed By Fall From Aero; Safety Belt Loose

Ex-Mayor Plunges 500 Feet at Gerstner Field Near Lake Charles, La.

Wife Near at Time Of the Accident

Body Will Be Brought Here for Burial, Arriving in City Tuesday Morning

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

LAKE CHARLES, La., July 6.—Major John Purroy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York City and an officer in the aviation section, was killed instantly today when he fell 500 feet from a single-seater scout plane.

An examination of the wrecked machine revealed that the safety belt was unfastened at the time of the accident, causing Major Mitchel to fall when the plane went into a nose dive. No detailed official version of the accident has been disclosed.

Major Mitchel had been in the air about half an hour when he fell, at 5:05 a. m. Gerstner Field, where the accident occurred, is fifteen miles from Lake Charles. Major Mitchel was flying beyond the boundaries of the field and only a few men witnessed the accident. After a search the body was found in tall marsh grass one-half mile south of the field.

After Major Mitchel's fall the plane had crashed to the ground some distance away. Other airmen said the fact that the machine was only 500 feet in the air indicated he had been about to effect a landing.

Widow Bears Shock Well

Mrs. Mitchel was at Gerstner Field, but did not witness the accident. Major Luckie, of the Medical Department, and two women acquaintances of Mrs. Mitchel broke the news to her. She bore the shock with fortitude. When Major Luckie said he had bad news to tell her Mrs. Mitchel said: "Tell it—tell it all. I am prepared and can bear it."

Asked whether the news bearers could perform any service for her, Mrs. Mitchel asked to be left alone for a time.

Later she said she preferred to accompany the body alone to New York. According to present plans, Mrs. Mitchel, with the body, will reach New Orleans early Sunday and arrive in New York Tuesday morning at 7:13 o'clock.

Major Mitchel went into the army service with previous military training, having taken a course at Plattsburg while he was Mayor. Upon joining the aviation service he was sent to San Diego, Cal., where, after successfully passing through the cadet training, he became a full-fledged flier. He was frequently mentioned as having shown unusual daring.

With Mrs. Mitchel he arrived June 19 at Gerstner Field from San Diego. Shortly afterward he began training for the pursuit of enemy machines, chasing a scout plane. He was reaching the finishing stages of training necessary for service at the war front.

Jokes With Instructor

Major Mitchel and his instructor, Lieutenant John McCaffery, went out on the grounds early this morning, and were laughing and talking about New York City politics. Lieutenant McCaffery jokingly remarked he was sorry he did not vote for Mr. Mitchel in the last election. Major Mitchel, as he climbed into his seat, smilingly replied: "That's all right; it's all over now."

One of the mechanics had said a few days ago: "It makes my hair stand on end to see Major Mitchel fly; he takes so many risks and seems to think nothing of it."

Major Mitchel recently told a Lake Charles banker he had chosen the Aviation Section of the service because he believed he could advance more rapidly than in any other department. "My one wish," he said, "is to get over to the Western front where I can do some work that will count."

Major and Mrs. Mitchel had been recipients of many social attentions since arriving in Lake Charles. Major Mitchel was so devoted to his duties, however, he found little time to participate in the social and civic affairs of the town. He declined numerous invitations to make addresses, his only public appearance being at a luncheon of the Rotary Club.

The accident is the only one of its kind which has occurred at Gerstner Field. Mrs. Mitchel received hundreds of messages of sympathy from prominent

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Three More Germans Desert in Seaplane

COPENHAGEN, July 6.—Three more German airmen, deserting their country, have landed in a giant seaplane at Masnedo, on the island of Masnedo, off the south coast of Seeland, Denmark, according to the Vordingborg correspondent of the "Politiken."

The machine belonged to the second German battle fleet and bears the number 21 B. There were no arms or ammunition, or even telescopes, on the seaplane, which indicates that the nature of the airmen's flight was surreptitious.

Four men, including Professor Nikolai, of Berlin University, recently fled by airplane to Denmark from Germany on account of intolerable conditions there. Other fugitives reached Denmark in a small boat.

Threat to Ruin Business Used By Hearst Men

After They Fail Police Order Anti-Hearst Banner Down

An anti-Hearst banner flown by Louis D. Master in front of his real estate office in Flushing yesterday provoked visits from three angry men who said they were Hearst emissaries, and also involved him with the police for the alleged violation of a city ordinance.

According to a statement last night by Master, the three men threatened to see that he lost the license authorizing an automobile and hacking business he conducts in Flushing, but promised to make it worth his while if he would sign a statement accusing The New York Tribune of secretly persuading him to show his banner.

The sign, which was painted on a six-foot strip of cloth, read: "I Do Not Read the Hearst Newspapers."

Master declared that in ordering him to remove the offending banner Captain Peabody, of the Flushing station, said: "We don't want any hard feelings against the Hearst papers here."

Captain Peabody denied later that he had made such a statement, and said that he acted as he would have acted against any citizen who hung an unlicensed sign over the city sidewalk.

"I put out the sign on my own initiative," said Master. "I had made up my mind that no patriotic citizen would read Hearst newspapers, and decided that the good people of Flushing ought to know how I felt about it. The sign had been out only a short while when a man came to my office and said he was a reporter from the 'New York American.' He asked me if The Tribune had suggested that I string up the banner. I said no. He told me he didn't believe me and threatened to get my hacking license away from me. He said things would be made worth while for me if I'd only own up. I stuck to the truth, and he went away. Two other men, who claimed to be from Hearst, appeared later in the day and tried to scare me into dragging The Tribune into the business."

"In the meanwhile Captain Peabody came to see me, with one officer. He ordered me to remove the sign and, not wanting to get into trouble with the police, I did so. They served a summons on me, ordering my appearance in court Monday morning for violation of a local ordinance. Captain Peabody said he didn't want any hard feelings here about the Hearst papers."

"I don't recall that I mentioned Hearst," said Captain Peabody. "Master was violating an ordinance, that was all. I wouldn't have cared what his banner read. The summons would have been served just the same."

German Potato Ration Cut to Pound Weekly

Lateness of Crop Makes Necessary Second Reduction in Short Time

AMSTERDAM, July 6.—Owing to the lateness of the new potato crop, the Berlin authorities, according to the "Tageblatt," announce the reduction of the potato ration next week from three to one pound a week and the distribution of an extra 200 grams of beans and peas a head.

The potato ration was reduced recently from seven to three pounds.

Hotel Hargrave, 72nd St., near Col. Ave. Trans. rates, \$2 and up, large, cool room with bath.—AdvL

Wilson Blocks Plan to Delay Wire Control

Move to Adjourn Until August 12 Fails in Congress

President Insists On Immediate Action

Interstate Commerce Committee to Begin Hearings This Week

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, July 6.—Congress bowed again to the will of the President to-night, when, after the Senate had passed a resolution to adjourn until August 12 by a vote of 27 to 26, and Majority Leader Kitchin had presented the resolution to the House, sentiment against adjournment was so pronounced in that body that Mr. Kitchin withdrew the resolution and the House failed to concur. In consequence, the month's recess, which seemed assured with the passage of the Senate adjournment resolution, became a lost hope.

To-day's doings in Congress were more confused than has been the case for a long time. This morning there was no doubt that a majority of the House favored the proposed recess. In this they were supported by the fact that the House had passed the wire bill as requested by the President. The responsibility was, therefore, with the Senate.

At the other end of the Capitol sentiment for adjournment was not nearly so strong. It was plain that the Senate would not consent to a hurried passage of the measure giving the President authority to take over the telegraphs and telephones.

The President declined to give his approval of the recess plan positively and directly, but placed the responsibility with Congress, saying that, in the opinion of the Senate, a recess

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Foe Kind to Captives! Propaganda Says So

WASHINGTON, July 6.—The Germans are dropping propaganda in an effort to induce our men to desert, General Pershing reported today in his communiqué for Friday. He wrote:

"In the Colmar sector, on July 1, there were no developments of note, conditions being in every case normal. An amusing example of German propaganda designed to induce our men to surrender easily was found. A German plane dropped in our line a postcard reading: 'Soldiers of the United States of America say that we kill prisoners of war or do them some other harm. Don't be such greenhorns. How can you smart Americans believe such a silly thing?'"

Wilson Will Put Veto on \$2.40 Wheat

House Notified President Disapproves Conferrees' Figure

WASHINGTON, July 6.—President Wilson will veto the annual agricultural appropriation bill because of the rider agreed to by both Senate and House to-day fixing the government minimum guaranteed wheat price at \$2.40 a bushel.

This information was transmitted to Chairman Lever of the House Agriculture Committee to-day through Postmaster General Bureau Johnson, before Speaker Clark had signed the bill preliminary to sending it to the White House.

The wheat price provision is attached to the annual agricultural appropriation bill carrying \$28,000,000. The \$2.40 guarantee agreed upon by both House and Senate to-day before the President's action was a compromise following a long deadlock on the proposal to advance the guarantee. Senate conferrees, headed by Senator Gore, chairman of the Agriculture Committee and author of the increased price amendment, had held out for \$2.50 wheat.

The House had quite as steadfastly contended for no advance. In an attempt to get the agricultural produc-

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Italians Clear Bank of Piave; Anzacs Gain

Germans at Xivray Again Repulsed by Pershing's Troops

4 Counter Thrusts By Germans Fail

Diaz Increases His Prisoners to 24,434; French Advance Near Vaux

The Italians yesterday ended their five-day drive in the Piave delta region by throwing the last Austrians across the main channel of the river and completely re-establishing the battle line as it stood before the great Austrian drive.

More than 400 Austrians were taken prisoner, bringing the total number taken by the Italians in their counter offensive to 3,500, and those taken since June 15 to 24,434. The Italians also recaptured the supplies they abandoned in the first rush of the Austrian advance, and took quantities of enemy guns and material.

On the West front the Australians made a new attack on a one-mile front northeast of Villers-Bretonneux, the scene of the Australian-American victory July 4, Field Marshal Haig announced last night.

In an effort to dislodge the Allied armies from their new positions on the Somme the Germans made four counter attacks yesterday, which broke down before the defending forces. Heavy artillery fire from the enemy's guns preceded the attacks.

The American forces at Xivray, on the eastern end of the battle line

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Mirbach Killed in Office With Pistols and Bombs

PARIS, July 6.—General Count von Mirbach, German Ambassador to Russia, has been assassinated at Moscow, according to a Berlin report received by the Havas Agency. Two unidentified persons were involved in the crime.

The two men asked for an audience with the German Ambassador this morning, then attacked him, wounding him with shots from a revolver. They followed this by throwing grenades. Von Mirbach died almost immediately.

The assassins fled and have not been arrested.

(By The Associated Press)

BASILE, July 6.—General Count von Mirbach, German Ambassador to Russia, was assassinated to-day at Moscow, according to a dispatch received here.

Obtaining admittance under false pretences, two unknown men entered the private office of Count von Mirbach this morning. A short discussion ensued. Then revolver shots were heard, followed by explosions of hand grenades.

Count Alfred von Mirbach-Goldern-Egmont was appointed as Ambassador and Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia after the conclusion of the Brest-Litovsk treaty. As the representative of the German government he had taken the chief part in the German demands on the Bolsheviks in recent weeks, chief among which was the insistence that the German army be allowed to assist in preventing the Czechoslovaks, deserters from the Austrian army, from proceeding through Siberia on their way to the West front.

Americans at America Has Hamel Fought 251,000 Men "Like Fiends" On Firing Line

"Kill! Kill! Kill!" Their Slogan as They Rushed German Lines

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Friday, July 5.—All the traditions of the United States army for valor were brilliantly sustained yesterday in the successful attack made against the Germans at Hamel, south of the River Somme, when, for the first time, American infantrymen took their stand beside their British cousins and fought shoulder to shoulder with them against the common foe.

It was a baptism of fire for the United States soldiers on this front, staged on Independence Day, and they came through with flying colors—fitting comrades for the famous Australian warriors whom they were assisting.

Several reasons were assigned for this. Among them was the shipping situation, with doubt of ability to retain bottoms recently obtained from the Allies, and another the fact that a large part of the troops given preliminary seasoning in this country already have been sent over, green troops taking their places to a large extent in the training camps.

The number of American fighting men facing the enemy is increasing every day, the latest units reported in action being those brigaded with the Allies in the dashing attack on Hamel July 4. No official account of the share of the Americans in that venture has yet been received.

General March pointed out that General Foch was carrying on a campaign of "biting" at the enemy front, the capture of Vaux by troops of the American second division, composed of regular regiments, having been a striking example of the raids in force. Other officers have seen in these operations evidence of the greater flexibility of the Allied armies, due to increased man power.

The fact that 251,000 Americans were engaged on July 1 indicated the extent to which American aid is responsible for having eased the situation in that respect.

General March's Statement

General March said: "The situation along various Western fronts has developed a situation where nibbling by the Allied forces is going on all the time, and with complete success so far as the Allied attacks are concerned. The most interesting of these minor raids, from the American standpoint, was the successful attack on Vaux, which occurred on July 1. This town was taken by a very nicely planned American attack in which the 9th and 23d regiments furnished the infantry contingent, and the 12th, 15th and 17th regiments of field artillery supported the attack. These troops form a part of our second division, which is under the command of Major General Omar Bundy."

"The successes attained have been consolidated and subsequent attacks of the Germans have not been sufficient to cause our withdrawal from any terrain which has been occupied. On the Italian front the situation has now come down to complete occupation by Italy of the southern bank of the Piave, with the exception of one small sector. The size of that sector, which is the only part of the south bank of the Piave still held by the Austrians, is 2 1/2 by 1 1/2 miles. It is on the delta near Grisolera. Along that entire region, which has

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New Policy on Intervention Is Adopted by U. S. Cabinet

Question of Whether Troops Will Be Sent to Siberia Cloaked in Secrecy

Next Step Up to Supreme Council

American Garrisons in Pacific Held Ready for Any Possible Movement

WASHINGTON, July 6.—America's waiting policy in regard to military action in Russia is understood to have ended to-day at a conference at the White House between President Wilson and Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels, Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations, and General March, Army chief of staff.

There was no announcement after the conference and probably will be none for the present, but it was said unofficially that an important decision had been reached.

Urgent appeals from the Allied governments for American approval of joint measures to meet the German menace through Russia have been before President Wilson for several days.

Strict Secrecy Observed

Until now, however, there has been no intimation that he had changed his position, based upon recommendations of his military advisers, that a successful military effort in Russia was not feasible.

For military reasons strictest secrecy is observed concerning the exact nature of steps proposed by the Allies. American and Allied naval forces now are guarding war supplies both at Vladivostok, terminal of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and Kola, terminal of the railroad on the Arctic Coast, which is reported threatened by German forces in the interior.

Belief among the majority of American military men that no expedition on an extended scale should be undertaken in the East apparently has undergone no change.

Marks End of Waiting

In fact, one official more than intimated to-night that to-day's decision did not mean the embarkation of any great military force across the Pacific. As to whether it meant operations by an international force of Japanese, French and British, with Americans in sufficient numbers to demonstrate the participation of the United States, no one would say.

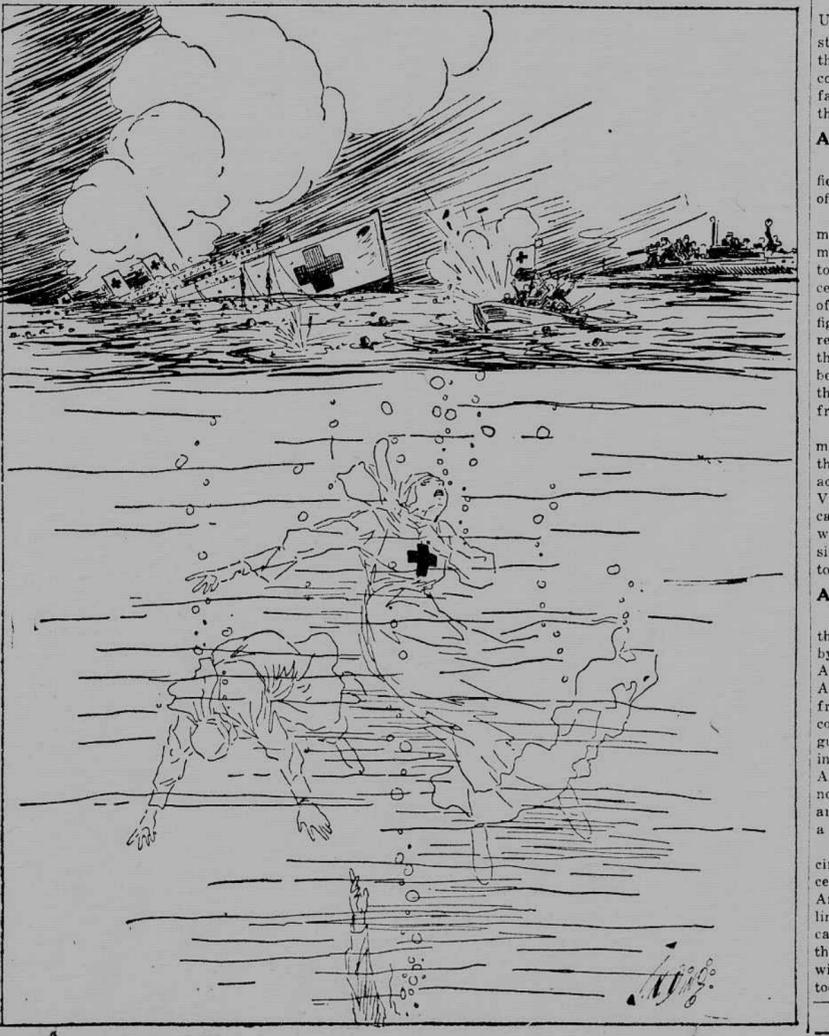
Regardless of the secrecy, however, the plain intimation was given that the White House conference marked the end of the period of waiting which began upon the Bolshevik acceptance of the Brest-Litovsk treaty whereby Germany gained control of a large section of Russia and paved the way for extending her influence eastward far into Siberia.

Mission to Go to Russia

Any military measures that may be put into effect along the Trans-Siberian Railroad or southward from Kola will not interfere with the American plans for lending material aid to the troubled Russian people through business men and industrial leaders who are being asked to undertake the task. An announcement is expected at any time of the form which this programme is to take and of the personnel of the first contingent for peaceful rehabilitation.

Heretofore the hope of the American government has been that Russia might be helped solely by peaceful means. It is realized, however, that all these plans will require time to execute and that in the meantime Germany is busy extending and tightening her grasp upon the disorganized country, and actually

THE HONOR OF THE GERMAN ARMS



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