

FEARS FOR U. S. EXPEDITION INTO MEXICO GROW AS ADDED FORCES RUSH TO VILLA HUNT

Communication With Pershing's Columns Cut Off, But Reports Say Clash With Outlaws Is Expected Hourly

Carranzistas, as Well as Villistas, Believed Menace to American Troops—Two Aviators, Lost in Desert, Probably Victims of Bandits—2700 Cavalrymen Will Join Invading Troops

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 22.—No word was received here up to noon today of the two missing lieutenants of the United States aeroplane corps who went into Mexico from here.

Additional troops today are rushing toward Mexico to aid the American expedition sent to "get" Francisco Villa, Mexican outlaw chieftain.

The reinforcements, 2700 cavalrymen, have been dispatched in response to an appeal from General Funston for added strength to the Pershing details.

General Funston's appeal is variously interpreted. At San Antonio there is a growing fear that the Carranza Government will fail the United States.

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WILSON DENIES GERMANY ASKED U. S. TO INITIATE OFFERS OF PEACE

WASHINGTON, March 22.—President Wilson today authorized an unequivocal denial of the Washington dispatch printed in the New York Evening Post yesterday which said that Germany had made overtures to the United States to initiate peace offers.

President Wilson authorized an unequivocal denial of the story appearing in a metropolitan newspaper with regard to peace offers that the story is untrue in every detail and there is no foundation for the inference drawn in the story.

The President was much disturbed over the story and expressed belief that its publication might prove very embarrassing to the country and to him.

The New York Evening Post asserted that Germany had suggested to the United States that the time was ripe for the initiation of peace proposals and that Ambassador Gerard had been asked by von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, to postpone his vacation while negotiations were under consideration.

Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, said that he knew nothing of any peace proposals emanating from Berlin.

PENROSE SPEECH "UNAUTHORIZED," SAYS STEEL MAN

Bethlehem Company Official Also Repudiates Oliver's ARMOR PLATE PROPHECY

Grace Says It Would Take Government Five Years to Organize Plant

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Senator Penrose was not authorized by the Bethlehem Steel Company to say that private manufacturers propose to boost the price of armor plate \$200 a ton if the Government decides to begin its manufacture.

Neither was Senator Oliver authorized by that company to make the statement that there would be no increase in the present price of armor plate in case the bill for an \$11,000,000 armor plate factory, passed by the Senate last night, received favorable action in the House.

This was the testimony given by E. C. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Company, when he appeared today before the House Naval Affairs Committee in opposition to the Tillman bill for Government manufacture of armor plate.

Mr. Grace said that if the House passed the bill it would close the three private plants, representing an investment of \$20,000,000.

"The question should not be considered in the light of advantage to the manufacturer," said Mr. Grace, "but for the interest of the country and as a contribution to preparedness."

"WOULD TAKE U. S. FIVE YEARS." Mr. Grace repeated his offer to furnish a third of the armor for ships under the five-year building program for \$25 a ton for side armor, as compared with \$425 a ton now.

"If the bill for a Government plant is passed," said Mr. Grace, "I shall recommend unqualifiedly that we provide for the amortization of the plant by the time the Government begins manufacturing armor."

"How long would it take the Government to build and start operation of an armor-plate plant?" he was asked.

"Five years," he said, "if during that time the United States should become involved in trouble, it can have our maximum output at its own price."

"That offer applies not only to our armor-plate factory but to all of our factories. First of all, we are patriotic."

Chairman Padgett brought out the fact that the aggregate capacity of the three private plants in the United States is 32,000 tons a year, the Bethlehem supplying 12,000 tons, the Carnegie 10,000 and the Midvale 10,000.

"Senator Oliver," said Mr. Grace, when asked about the statement that the private manufacturers would not raise the present price of armor even though the Government does decide to begin to manufacture, "may have had authority to speak for the Midvale, but he had no authority to speak for us."

"It has been reported," said Mr. Padgett, "that Senator Penrose told the Senate Naval Committee that if this bill passes the private manufacturers will be followed by a place of safety."

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12 OIL WELLS ON FIRE; LOSS IS \$1,000,000

Spectacular Flames Do Great Damage in Drumbright Fields of Oklahoma

TULSA, Okla., March 22.—Fire is raging today in the oil fields near Drumbright. Twelve wells are sending columns of flame into the air, piercing the mountain of thick black smoke that swept upward from the burning field.

Twenty-four derricks have been destroyed and all men stood by watching the fire, helpless to check its progress.

Damage to the field already was estimated at \$1,000,000 and it was said the total loss would be much larger.

CANDID PARROT STARTS FIGHT Bird Said Its Master Was "Drunk Again"

A parrot has brought no end of trouble to John Mears, of 1818 Bonita street. It appears that Mears spends considerable time at the House of Correction, and for this the parrot is much to blame, declares Mears.

Two Wrecked Autos Found Two wrecked automobiles were found by Upper Darby and Yeadon police yesterday, and it is believed that both were stolen. The Upper Darby police found a car near Cardington, which bore license number 10552, Pennsylvania. The Yeadon police found the other car in the Greenwood cemetery. It had license tag number 6892.

ALLIED AIRMEN KILLED 200 IN BELGIAN RAID

Attack on Zeebrugge by Big Squadron Takes Heavy Toll

350 PERSONS WOUNDED

Amsterdam Says Raiders' Bomb Fire Proved Effective. Victims Mostly Soldiers

AMSTERDAM, March 22.—The great aerial attack on Zeebrugge Monday morning by a fleet of British, French and Belgian aeroplanes caused the death of 200 persons and spread heavy damage at the German naval base, according to reliable reports received from the Dutch frontier today.

A number of the Germans' large coast guns were destroyed by the bombs dropped from the aeroplanes. In addition to those killed, 350 were wounded.

Most of the casualties inflicted by the Allied bombs were among the German sailors at Zeebrugge, but a number of soldiers were killed or injured at Houtlaide (Houttave), where the German aviation camp was badly damaged. Seven hangars containing new aeroplanes that had just come from the German factories were smashed and their contents completely ruined.

All reports of the raid reaching here agree that the attacking aviators made the most brilliant flight that has marked the war. Though flying high above Zeebrugge and Houtlaide to escape the volleys fired by the German anti-aircraft guns, the Allied aviators nevertheless threw their bombs with careful aim.

GERMANS POUND FOE'S LEFT WING IN MEUSE WOODS

Guns Sweep Hill 304 and Avoucourt Forest on French Flank

VAUX AGAIN UNDER FIRE

THE HAGUE, March 22.—Emperor William has returned to the Verdun front, Berlin advices say that the final assault on the French fortress is about to begin.

PARIS, March 22.—No infantry action was launched by the Germans during the night on the Verdun front, but they opened a violent artillery bombardment in the region of Malancourt, east of Hill No. 304. It is apparently the Germans' intention to attempt the capture of this height in order that they may fully dominate Dead Man's Hill, where the French have this far successfully resisted.

The official communique issued this afternoon says:

West of the Meuse there was a violent artillery duel east of Hill No. 304. The bombardment was particularly violent against that position and Avoucourt. East of the Meuse there was an intense bombardment in the region of Vaux and Damplou. No infantry action occurred during the night. The night was quiet on the rest of the front.

The same prodigality of human life that characterized the German attacks north and east of Verdun marks the fighting in Malancourt Forest, northwest of the French fortress.

According to the military critic of the Echo de Paris, the German success at Avoucourt represented an advance of approximately a mile over a front of a mile and one third.

"The capture of French positions in Avoucourt, Wood de la Fosse and the position of the War Office," says the Echo de Paris today, "the positions were strongly organized and it was only at the price of the most intense and destructive bombardment followed by the ruthless squandering of lives, that the Crown Prince was able to make headway. The character of the Avoucourt position has no tactical value in itself. Its only worth is that it may prove a stepping stone to a subsequent success."

Lieutenant Colonel Roussel, the famous military expert, predicts that the next move of the Germans northwest of Verdun will be to try to capture some of the dominating hills that encircle Avoucourt wood, so that their positions will not be menaced by French artillery posted on these eminences.

"If it is the object of the Crown Prince to endanger our position on Le Mort Homme (Dead Man Hill) by flanking attacks, he must push on eastward and storm Hill No. 304, between Malancourt and Ennez," says Colonel Roussel. "By the capture of Hill 304 he could dominate with his artillery our position on Dead Man Hill. Until this is accomplished the left flank of our Verdun defenses is not menaced in the slightest by the new offensive launched by the Germans on the edge of the Argonne."

PROSECUTOR ON BENCH IN MacNEILLE'S COURT Judge MacNeille, in the Juvenile Court, today established a precedent when he had the Assistant District Attorney sit with him on the bench instead of retaining the usual position of a prosecuting officer inside the bar inclosure. The Judge explained that with respect to juvenile cases the District Attorney occupies a quasi-judicial position rather than that of a prosecuting officer solely.

GERMANS GAIN MORE GROUND NORTH OF VERDUN BERLIN, March 22.—German troops have captured more trenches in the Avoucourt Woods, northwest of Verdun, the War Office announced this afternoon. Three more enemy aeroplanes have been put out of action. Northeast of Avoucourt the number of prisoners in the hands of the Germans has been increased to 58 officers and 2914 men.

BRITISH AND TURKS TO EXCHANGE MAIMED PRISONERS LONDON, March 22.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, announced in Commons today that England and Turkey had agreed to an exchange of incapacitated prisoners. Negotiations are now under way for an exchange of combatants.

B. & O. PLACES EMBARGO ON CORN CHICAGO, March 22.—The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has placed an embargo on corn shipments to Baltimore.

DUTCH ACCEPT DISAVOWAL OF TUBANTIA SINKING THE HAGUE, March 22.—The Dutch Foreign Office has notified the Minister at Berlin not to demand an investigation of the sinking of the Holland-Lloyd liner Tubantia, in view of the official statement of the German Admiralty that a German submarine was not responsible for the destruction of the ship. Official announcement of the action of the Foreign Office was made today.

CAMDEN GRADE CROSSINGS ABOLISHED All of the dangerous grade-crossings on the Atco Division of the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad in Camden have been eliminated and today all trains from the seashore and intervening points are using the new elevated tracks into Camden. The work of eliminating the grade-crossings was begun about 19 years ago and the company has spent about \$3,000,000 in connection with its elevated work in Camden. When the work was proposed Southeast Camden was still more than a farm land, but new hundreds of buildings have been and are being erected and the line passes through an entirely new community.

THIRSTY STEER INVADERS DOWNTOWN BARROOM Customers Flee; Animal, Lassoed by Policemen, Breaks Rope and Escapes

A frowny looking steer with rings in his nose and his tongue hanging out dropped in the saloons of Joseph Fagnolia, at the southeast corner of 11th and Filbert streets, for a drink. Several men were leaning against the bar in various stages of happiness. Some had evidently promised that they would swear off drinking during Lent and they mistook the steer for Satan himself when they took a glance at its towering horns. Several left by way of the windows, others ran down the cellar and the bartender seized a mallet and used the bar for a trench.

The steer emitted a bellow and was setting itself to clean out the place when it was pulled out backward by Policemen Isola and Bluestone, who lassoed it with a rope. When it reached the street the animal gave the cops the laugh, broke the rope and scampered away again.

The steer was one of a herd which broke out of the abattoir of Benjamin Harris, at 248 Morris street. The animals scattered to all parts of the city.

CLAYTON CULBERTSON BOY HIT BY AUTO DIES Driver of Truck Rearrested and Will Face Charge of Causing Victim's Death Today



CLAYTON CULBERTSON BOY HIT BY AUTO DIES

Six-year-old J. Clayton Culbertson, of 1833 North Edgewood street, is dead in the West Philadelphia Homeopathic Hospital of injuries received last Monday when he was run down by an auto truck. James Kane, of 2033 Summer street, driver of the truck will be arraigned before Magistrate Stevenson today in the 61st and Thompson streets police station, charged with causing his death.

The accident happened at 62d street and Lansdowne avenue. Clayton ran across the street and was knocked down by the heavy truck, one of Wansanaker's. Kane picked the boy up and took him to the hospital and then surrendered to the police. He was held in \$500 bail to await the result of the boy's injuries. Today he was rearrested. The boy sustained a fracture of the skull and other injuries.