

### MITCHEL DIES IN PLANE FALL OF 600 FEET

#### Former N. Y. Mayor Killed While Flying in Louisiana

#### SERVED AS MAJOR IN AVIATION BRANCH

#### Plunges to Earth After Soaring Half Hour in Scout Machine

#### CAUSE NOT YET LEARNED

#### Wife at Aerial Field, but Does Not See Accident

By the Associated Press

Lake Charles, La., July 6.—Major John Purroy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York city and an officer in the aviation section of the signal corps, was instantly killed at Gerstner Field today when he fell from a single-seater scout plane at a height of about 600 feet.

Major Kirby, commanding officer at the field, in announcing that Major Mitchel fell from the machine, offered no explanation as to how the accident might have happened. It is a rule that all fliers be fastened in the plane by a safety belt, and whether examination of the wrecked machine indicated that Major Mitchel had failed to do this or that the belt became broken was not stated. Major Mitchel had been in the air about half an hour when he fell.

Major Mitchel, accompanied by Mrs. Mitchel, came to Lake Charles from San Diego, Cal., about three weeks ago, and Mrs. Mitchel was at Gerstner Field, which is fifteen miles from Lake Charles, this morning, but did not witness the accident. Mrs. Mitchel was in the body, will leave tonight for New York.

Beaumont, Tex., July 6.—According to officials at Gerstner Field, where Major John Purroy Mitchel was killed today, Major Mitchel was alone in a single-seater scout machine and had been in the air for about half an hour. The machine fell 600 feet in an isolated section of the flying field.

Officers could not determine the cause of the accident. Mrs. Mitchel was at Gerstner Field, but did not witness the accident. She will accompany the body to New York tonight.

New York, July 6.—John Purroy Mitchel, killed in an aviation accident today, was a member of the army after having been defeated last fall for re-election as Mayor of New York. He had served one term as the chief executive of the country's biggest city, the youngest Mayor ever elected to that office. On July 19 next he would have been thirty-nine years old.

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

Military matters were, in fact, somewhat of a hobby with Major Mitchel while still in civil life and during his mayoralty, even before the United States entered the war, he placed the police department on a military basis. He established a military training corps for policemen, and organized an efficient home defense guard as soon as war was declared with Germany. He was credited with having brought the police department to the highest state of efficiency perhaps known in the city's history.

"The dearest thing to Mr. Mitchel's heart," said his former secretary, Theodore Rousseau, today, "was a desire to get into the fighting lines overseas. It seems too bad he should have died in the city. He died for his country just as much as the brave men who are dying in actual battle abroad." The following statement was issued:

"The news of the death of John Purroy Mitchel is a great personal shock to me. My sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Mitchel in this, her great bereavement.

"Proper steps will be taken by the officials of the city and the public generally to pay every respect to the late Mayor."

### MITCHEL A WORKER FOR PREPAREDNESS

Mitchel served as Mayor of New York from August, 1911, when he became acting executive of that city when Mayor Gaynor was shot, until June, 1912, when he resigned to become Collector of the Port of New York. He was elected Mayor in November, 1913, on a fusion ticket and gave up the collectorship in December.

Advocate of Preparedness  
Major Mitchel was an ardent advocate of preparedness and was a candidate for re-election on a fusion ticket with sterling Americanism as his platform. He was defeated by Judge Hylan, the Tammany candidate.

As Mayor, Mitchel took a notable stand on national preparedness, giving up his vacation for that purpose. After that he made the first suggestion that resulted in the conference of Mayors on preparedness. He was again sent to Plattsburg and attained the rank of first lieutenant. When the war was on, he organized a national defense fund notable work in aiding the Government in the war.

After receiving a commission in the aviation service he went to California for training. While there he was given a leave of absence to participate in a Liberty Loan campaign. Later he was transferred to Texas.

New York Mayor at 24  
Elected Mayor of New York in November, 1913, Mayor Mitchel, at that time thirty-four years old, was the youngest man ever elected to that office. He was

### JOHN PURROY MITCHEL KILLED



The former Mayor of New York, who was a major in the aviation corps, U. S. A., lost his life in an airplane accident at Gerstner Field, Lake Charles, La.

### 251,000 YANKEES ON FIGHTING LINE

#### General March Discloses Number at Weekly War Council Conference

#### WILL INCREASE NUMBER

By the Associated Press

Washington, July 6.—American troops actually on the fighting lines in Europe about July 1 numbered 251,000, according to information given today by General March, chief of staff, and other members of the War Council at their weekly conference with members of the Senate Military Committee.

This was the high-water mark for the United States in its front-line participation, the Senators were told, but of the million odd Americans now overseas or en route a substantial portion, it was stated, soon will be trained enough to insure a steady and large increase for the combat trenches.

To Reduce Shipments  
Shipments of American troops, the Senators were told, will be somewhat less than during the recent three-month period.

Several reasons were assigned, among them was the shipping situation, with doubt of ability to retain bottoms recently secured 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.

Preparations now are being made by the Allies on the western front to meet another heavy German assault, General March told newspaper correspondents today at his weekly conference.

As to the participation of the United States in the war, General March had nothing to announce except that the first million men having been embarked for France, movement of the second million is being pressed.

The situation along the western front, he said, has developed into a continuous "nibbling" by Allied forces, with complete success being obtained. The most important of these minor raids, from the American standpoint was the attack on Vaux on July 1.

Regiments That Won Vaux  
The attack on Vaux was carried out by the Ninth and Twenty-third Infantry, supported by the Twelfth, Fifteenth and Seventeenth Field Artillery, all of the second division, under command of Major General Omar Bundy. The success attained there has been completely consolidated, subsequent counter-attacks by the Germans failing to cause the slightest withdrawal from the territory occupied.

On the Italian front, the general said, the situation has come down to the complete occupation by the Italians of the southern bank of the Piave river, except for one very small sector. The point still held by the Austrians is three and one-half by one and one-half miles, while the general Italian advance was over a nine-mile front.

### YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND something of special interest in the various departments of the Evening Public Ledger.

#### Take This Edition for instance, with the following Notable Features

Special Fiction, including "The Eagle's Eye," a captivating account of German intrigue, with this installment devoted to the abortive attempt to destroy the Welland Canal; "The First Shot," described by Corporal De Varilla, who fired it; "The Secret Witness," "The Crack in the Bell" and the Daily Nolette.

Exclusive Cable dispatches from the important places in war-torn Europe on subjects you hear most discussed.

Side-splitting comics in a full page, just next to the back page, with its array of pictures showing the latest activities of our women.

A Weekly Chat about what's what in Washington by no less a person than Congressman J. Hampton Moore.

### SUGAR TO HOMES ONLY, IS OUTLOOK

#### Supplies to Manufacturers May Be Shut Off Entirely, Is Belief

#### DUE TO GERMAN DRIVE

By the Associated Press

With the most critical sugar situation that has faced Philadelphia since war was declared now developing here, manufacturers of articles needing sugar see the possibility of their supplies being shut off to allow private homes sufficient sugar for their needs.

There is less sugar in Philadelphia today than there was this time last year, when the shortage first was felt. In view of this lessened supply now, heavy users of sugar see drastic curtailment, if not an absolute shut-off, impending.

No doubt is attached to the probability of soft drink manufacturers, candy makers and other users of sugar in large quantities, who are classed as non-essential, being refused a supply unless marked improvement develops in the sugar situation. And little relief can be expected for some time.

Lack Due to German Drive  
Early in the spring refineries began planning on the amounts of sugar they would have available for consumption in the United States. The needs of the Allies were considered and the amount the overseas countries needed was subtracted from the total amount believed available for refining. The remainder was to go to this country. Refining company officials were optimistic. They saw record supplies of sugar available for Americans.

But all hopes for large supplies of sugar were shattered when the German drive this spring resulted in many northern France beet-sugar mills falling into the hands of the Germans. This so curtailed the sugar refining facilities of France that now that nation and Great Britain must look to the United States for virtually their entire supply.

Another factor that figured heavily in the present sugar shortage here is the submarine activities off the New Jersey coast. Large quantities of sugar were sent to the bottom of the ocean, while much-needed ships also were sunk. Enough ships were removed from the sugar trade to seriously cripple importation of the raw product from Cuba, Java, Hawaii and Haiti.

Not Enough Ships  
Plenty of the raw material now is in those countries, awaiting transportation to the United States for refining. Enough sugar could be obtained from the raw material, but cannot be employed now, here, to more than supply the demands of this country based on a pre-war rating.

Until the shipping situation becomes less acute, America will continue suffering a sugar shortage, which may develop into a famine unless extreme conservation methods are employed now to allow any of the vessels to be released for the sugar trade.

Philadelphia, in normal times, uses an average of 90,000,000 pounds of sugar a year. Unless further saving methods result in a reduction of the consumption by at least 50 per cent, there may be no sugar obtainable in Philadelphia. Homes now use more than 80 per cent of the sugar supply.

### TROOPSHIP GOES ASHORE

#### Soldiers and Crew Saved From Canadian Transport

By the Associated Press

Ottawa, July 6.—A Canadian troopship, the City of Vienna, has gone ashore on the Atlantic coast. All the troops and the crew were safely removed. Official announcement regarding the vessel was made here through the office of the chief press censor. It is thought the ship will be a total loss.

The City of Vienna, of 6111 tons gross, is owned by Ellerman Lines, Limited, of Liverpool. The vessel was built in 1914 and has been in use as a Government transport almost from the time of her launching.

Boston, July 6.—The rescue by an American patrol boat of 709 troops from the Canadian troopship City of Vienna, wrecked off the Atlantic coast, was recalled here today. The American boat ran through a thick fog to reach the City of Vienna, which went down soon after all hands had been taken off.

### 150 LOSE LIVES AS STEAMBOAT SINKS IN RIVER

#### Illinois Excursion Boat, With 500 Aboard, Rams Into Log

#### TRAGEDY OVERTAKES 200 ON DANCE FLOOR

#### Victims Were Drowned or Trampled to Death in Panic

#### FOG VEILED DANGER

#### Bodies of Drowned Jammed Between Decks—51 Are Recovered

By the Associated Press

Peoria, Ill., July 6.—Approximately 150 persons were drowned or trampled to death at midnight last night, when the excursion steamboat Columbia, carrying more than 500 persons, struck an obstruction in the Illinois River and sank.

The excursion party started from Pekin, fifteen miles distant from here, early in the evening, spent several hours at Al Fresco amusement park, near this city, and when the return trip to Pekin was about half completed the steamboat ran into the obstruction on the Peoria shore during a fog, smashing a big hole in her bow. The pilot signalled full speed astern and as soon as the vessel pulled clear of the log or rock she began to settle and within a few minutes sank, carrying many persons down.

Soon after the steamer struck a panic occurred among the passengers and many men, women and children jumped into the water without securing life preservers. Those who could swim reached shore, which was only a few feet away. The second deck of the boat, where the dance hall is located, was crowded when the crash came, and it was here that many were crushed to death in the panic.

200 On Dance Floor  
Ray Jones, fireman on the steamer, estimated that 150 or 200 persons were on the dance floor when the boat struck and he believed many of these perished. When the boat settled on the bottom, the water reached the staterooms immediately below the pilot house on the listed side. The pilot, when he found his boat was sinking, sent distress signals and within a short time, boats from various directions came to the rescue and began to pick up those struggling in the water, but on account of the darkness their efforts were badly hampered.

The police of Pekin early today estimated the number of dead at 150, but Captain H. F. Mehl, of the steamer, said he believed the number of dead was not more than one hundred.

This morning, only the hurricane deck of the steamer is visible above the water.

"There are at least 100 bodies" down below," Captain Mehl, of the Columbia, told Coroner Clary when he returned from an inspection of the sunken boat.

Eastland Diver at Work  
With the break of day divers went down into the sunken steamer to bring up bodies of the 100 or more victims of the disaster believed to be between the crushed decks of the boat. One of the underwater men was George Holverson, who recovered many bodies from the Eastland when that boat capsized in the Chicago River in 1915.

Almost at the same hour hearses began arriving at Pekin from the scene of the disaster, bringing the first of the bodies of the victims. Soldiers detailed from Camps Bradley and Herring were in Pekin early to preserve order.

Coroner E. L. Clary, of Tazewell County, said this morning a jury and left with the members for the scene.

As dawn broke and the unsettled mist which hung over the river lifted, volunteer workers vigorously prosecuted the search for bodies. Under the direction of Sheriff Wilson, of Tazewell County, the volunteers clambered aboard the craft.

Weird memories of an excursion crowd were seen on every hand. Knitting, which some industrial matron had been laboring on just before the crash, was found floating between the decks of the boat. The needles hung loose in the wool of the sweater of khaki yarn which she had started. Shoes, hats, dancing pumps, sweaters and wraps were hauled from the water-covered checking room in the dance floor.

Over the uncertain planking, railings and life rafts—jumbled in an unrecognizable pile of wreckage—the searchers for loved ones, friends and acquaintances climbed with precarious footsteps.

Crushed Between Decks  
With the arms of the victims thrown up in queer attitudes of defiance of the falling deck, protection from impending death, and fear of the terrible watery darkness, the bodies were pulled out from beneath the decks.

If they were identified, tags were attached to the baskets in which they were placed, and they were taken to shore. Otherwise they were carefully covered and hurried to Pekin.

Divers appeared shortly after 8 o'clock. Because of the battered shape of the boat, it was believed that several days would pass before all of the work of recovering the bodies would be completed. Miss Edith Lee, of Pekin, was the first

### WILSON FIRM FOR ACTION ON WIRE CONTROL

#### Senate Disposed to Postpone Consideration of Bill Until After Recess

#### PRESIDENT URGES PASSAGE AT ONCE

#### Necessary Attention by Committee Precludes Vote, Declares Martin

#### QUESTION OF NECESSITY

#### Overman Argues Old Law Gives Chief Executive Power to Act

By the United Press

Washington, July 6.—President Wilson today clashed with the Senate on the question of passing the measure empowering him to seize the nation's communication lines before Congress recessed.

While Senator Martin, emerald floor leader, was sending a letter to the President, stating it was "absolutely impossible" for the Senate to act on the resolution before recess, a presidential messenger was en route to Martin with another letter from the President urging the action before the Senate leaves.

At the same time the President authorized the statement at the White House that he was keenly anxious for the Senate to act on the bill.

Martin's statement to the President was in reply to a letter asking Martin to advise the President whether immediate passage of the resolution would be practicable. The House passed it yesterday.

Will Require Long Discussion  
"It is practically the unanimous verdict of Senators that the resolution must be considered by committee before being brought up in the Senate," said Martin. "For that reason, it would be impossible to pass it and have a recess. It will require long discussion in the Senate."

Senator Borah announced that present plans are to recess Congress late today until August 12. The recess resolution has been prepared.

Senator Borah sharply criticized the plan to recess and leave the telegraph resolution unacted upon.

"We would like to know," Borah said, "something about the reported program of restricting and leaving important matters undisturbed. The House passed the telegraph resolution in great haste, obviously on the theory that it was necessary before recess. I don't propose to join in an effort to abandon this legislation and leave the blame put on the Senate if any emergency arises during the recess."

Senator Martin, replying, declared passage of the resolution is not necessary. He said President Wilson now has authority to take over the lines if the necessity exists.

No Fact or Reason Shown  
"But not a fact or a reason has been submitted to show Congress that the necessity exists," said Martin. "The consensus of opinion on both sides of this body is that the matter should be thoroughly investigated. The Senate and country should know the reason why these properties must be taken over."

Borah insisted that the House would not have acted with such haste had it not been convinced of the necessity.

"Oh, the House often shifts responsibility that way," said Martin. "It would be necessary to investigate the wide belt lines and country should know the reason why these properties must be taken over."

Senator Lewis, of Illinois, today introduced a bill creating a department of transportation and telegraph lines, owned, operated or controlled by the Government.

Lewis's bill also creates a new cabinet post, secretary of transportation and telegraph, who is to have supervision of rail and water transportation and of telegraphs and telephones.

### ORDERS SPEED ON NEW DRAFT

#### Examinations at Once and Call to Colors in August

By the Associated Press

Washington, July 6.—State draft executives were directed by Provost Marshal General Crowder today to have local boards call up for physical examination immediately all new registrants under the selective draft law who have been placed in Class 1.

### WAR SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Allied thrusts successful in winning important ground in local actions have not yet drawn from the enemy a resumption of his strong offensive movements, but there is little doubt that another German blow is in the making.

American troops smashed German raiding operations on the Toul front an dthe Vosges.

German artillery is thundering again in the Villers-Bretonneux and Ancre River sectors.

Italians are pressing their drive and gaining in both the Asiago and Piave regions.

### 'LUSITANIA,' WAR CRY OF YANKEES

#### New Battle Slogan Sounds As Americans Rush Toward Hamel

By PHILIP GIBBS

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. War Correspondents' Headquarters on the Western Front, July 6.

After the Australian morning of the Somme Thursday morning the enemy, whose guns had almost been silenced during the battle by the intense counter battery work, shelled some of the new Allied positions rather heavily, and in the evening made three counter-attacks. These seem to have been directed on the wings and center of the Australian line, but were feeble and unsuccessful.

Groups of German machine gunners and infantry established themselves within fifty yards of the Australians, who were annoyed by this close approach and decided not to tolerate it. So during the night a number of them went down, drove in the German outposts and brought back another batch of prisoners to the number of something more than fifty.

I was unable to mention yesterday one of the most interesting features of this section, and that was the share taken in the fighting by American troops. There were not many of them compared with the strength of the Australian brigades, but these few companies were eager to go forward to meet the enemy face to face for the first time and prove their fighting quality. They have proved it up to the hilt of that sword which is in their temper and spirit.

Historic Day for Americans  
Australians officers with whom I spoke yesterday and today told me how the Americans attacked with astonishing ardor, discipline and courage. If they had any fault at all it was over-eagerness to advance, so that they could hardly be restrained from going too rapidly behind the wide belt of the British shellfire as the barrage rolled forward.

It was a historic day for them and the British. It was the Fourth of July, the day of American independence, when, as I described yesterday, many French villages quite close to the fighting lines were all fluttering with the Tricolor and the Stars and Stripes in honor of their comradeship during the recess.

Senator Martin, replying, declared passage of the resolution is not necessary. He said President Wilson now has authority to take over the lines if the necessity exists.

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### U.S. TROOPS CHECK RAID ON TOUL LINE

#### Americans Completely Repulse German Efforts to Raid Sector

#### ALSO VICTORS IN VOSGES

By the United Press

Paris, July 6.—American troops on the Toul front and in the Vosges region completely repulsed German attacks, the French War Office announced today.

"In the American sector at Xivry (on the Toul front) and in the Vosges, German raids were repulsed," the communication said.

"French detachments penetrated the German lines and took prisoners in Lechaume Wood."

The statement reads: "We captured a few prisoners in patrol encounters in the neighborhood of Xivry."

"Hostile artillery has been active between Villers-Bretonneux and the Ancre."

The official weekly summary of aerial operations issued by the Air Minister, follows:

"On the British western front, the last weekly summary was issued, 122 German machines were downed and seventy-three driven down out of control, against fifty-two British machines reported as missing. During the same period fourteen separate towns were raided and bombed. The airbase at Boulay was raided six times, the railway triangle at Metz-Sablon four, Mannheim four, Saar-

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### WILSON HOLDS COUNCIL OVER RUSSIA'S FATE

#### Calls Secretaries to Confer on Action Necessary by Allied Nations

#### REPORTS PLACED BEFORE PRESIDENT

#### Plans Call for Quick Action to Relieve Suffering Russian People

#### INTERVENTION ASKED

#### U. S. and Entente Forces Landed to Guard Part of Vladivostok

By I. N. S. J.

Washington, July 6.—President Wilson called a conference of Secretaries of State Lansing, Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Secretary of War Baker and Admiral William S. Benson, chief of operations of the navy, at 12:30 today, for 2 o'clock this afternoon. No statement as to what the object of the conference was forthcoming.

It was understood that the conference would thresh out the Russian situation. The President has had several reports received from Ambassador David R. Francis, "that of the Versailles Military Council, which considered Russia in its relations to the military situation on the western front, and of Secretary Lansing, dealing with the diplomatic outlook. It was generally accepted that the President had about reached a decision on the question and that the conference would consider that decision and its probable effect on the war.

Diplomatic circles were extremely expectant this afternoon. They have been looking to the President to act and he has received important communications through both the British and French ambassadors during the last few days.

By the United Press  
Washington, July 6.—Immediate intervention in Russia, both military and economic, has been urged by the British and French. The council report is in the hands of President Wilson—has been since July 3—and Allied diplomats believe he will concur in it.

Should he refuse the possibility is held out today that Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan may "go it alone" upon the recommendations of the war council.

Already British, French, Japanese and American marines have landed at Vladivostok, it developed today. Ostensibly they went ashore following the battle between the Bolsheviks and Czech-Slovaks Sunday to protect the Allied consulates.

With them are 2500 Dalmatian troops, formerly prisoners of war in Russia and now under the Italian flag, awaiting orders from General Foch.

Causes Great Enthusiasm  
This Allied gathering has provoked the greatest enthusiasm in Eastern Siberia. Russian townspeople in and near Vladivostok decorated their houses with Allied flags and staged enthusiastic celebrations, the cables say.

This reception, coupled with demands of the anti-Bolshevik factions and the Inter-Allied Council, led diplomats here to take the position that America must yield.

"The majority has decided," one official said. "The President has his decision. He may come in or stay out, but the majority must rule."

Details of the Bolshevik-Szech battle at Vladivostok indicate that the defeat of the Reds was decisive. A fortnight ago the Czechs, acting at the behest of the Allies, issued an ultimatum to the Red Guards to cease arming German prisoners of war. The demand was unheeded. At 10:30 o'clock on the morning of June 30 the Czechs attacked. Six hundred Bolshevik sailors immediately surrendered. The rest of the garrison took refuge in a brickhouse. Two hours' bombardment forced them to capitulate, those not surrendering retreating to the westward along the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Most of these who escaped are believed to have been Germans.

To Land Several Thousand  
According to advices received here, both Great Britain and France expect to land several thousand troops in Siberia. Italy for the present will be represented by the Dalmatians, while the Czech-Slovaks will represent the Balkans. Just what part Japan and China will play has not been learned. This will be announced after the President gives his decision as to the attitude of the United States.

Diplomatic officials, however, are inclined to believe that Japan's army of 500,000 and China's potential army of nearly a million will be used to the best advantage.

Diplomats here, not in on the Inter-Allied Council's plans, now see why President Wilson failed to mention Russia in his August 1917 speech. Knowing that the address would be prepared by the arrival of the Council's decision, friends of the President urged him to say nothing that would in any way commit this country to a definite policy.

### BASEBALL SCORES

DETROIT	0	0	0	0	0	—
ATHS (1g.)	1	0	0	0	1	—

Gregg-McAvoy; Daus-Stanga.

### WILSON CONFERS WITH LEADERS ON WIRE BILL

#### WASHINGTON, July 6.—Senators Martin and Simmons and Democratic Leader Kitchin, of the House, left for the White House this afternoon to confer with the President over the resolution conferring authority on the President to take over the telephone and telegraph lines and to discuss the recess situation.

### HOUSE VOTES FOR \$2.40 WHEAT

#### WASHINGTON, July 6.—In an effort to bring the deadlock over the Senate proposal to increase the Government's minimum guaranteed wheat price to \$2.50, the House today adopted, by a vote of 150 to 106, a resolution by Representative McLaughlin, of Michigan, to make the price \$2.40.

### BRITISH BOMB ENEMY IN BELGIUM

#### LONDON, July 6.—British aerial bombing squadrons continue to destroy German military works in