

NIGHT BOMB ATTACK AT SEA SUCCESSFUL

Parachute Flares Make Old Warship Visible for Fleet of Airplanes.

HITS SET FOUR FIRES

Navigation Bridge of the Alabama Wrecked by 300 Pound Missile.

MOTORS ARE MUFFLED

First Experiment Shows That Hostile Coast Is Bad Place for Battleships.

By WILLIAM F. FULLAM, Rear Admiral, U. S. N. (Retired), Former Commandant Annapolis Naval Academy.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Washington, D. C., Sept. 25.—The experimental attacks upon the battleship Alabama by the army air force from Langley Field under the direction of Brig.-Gen. William E. Mitchell and his Chief of Staff, Col. Milling, U. S. A., which began with smoke screens and gas bombs on Friday, were continued by a spectacular attack at 11 o'clock Friday night and by further attacks with bombs under cover of smoke screens during Saturday.

Interest centered in the night work. It has been generally assumed that air forces could attack a fleet only during daylight, when anti-aircraft guns could be brought to bear for the protection of the ships and thus force the air forces to bomb from high altitudes. For some time Gen. Mitchell has drilled his forces at night and has brought them to a high standard of skill and efficiency. The experiment at 11 P. M. Friday was the first of its kind that has ever been made by the United States air forces against a man-of-war as a target.

One Bomb Destructive.

The first planes to approach were not discovered by observers until they began to drop parachute flares of 200-foot candle-power. Several of the flares fell near enough to plainly light up and locate the Alabama and the bombers then began the attack with 300 pound bombs charged with 165 pounds of TNT. The marksmanship was excellent. One salvo of two bombs hit the forward deck on the starboard. One of these failed to explode, but punctured the forecabin and the main deck underneath. The other exploded with terrific force, completely wrecking the navigating bridge near the conning tower and creating havoc in a large part of the superstructure. The whole upper works of the ship appeared to be enveloped in smoke and flame and four fires were started on deck from bow to stern. It is believed that the entire anti-aircraft personnel would have been put out of action by this explosion.

Attack a Triumph of Skill.

The planes making this night attack were specially fitted with running lights to avoid collisions in the air and the exhaust pipes from all motors were lengthened to prevent torching. This device muffled the motors and increased the difficulty of discovering the planes, which flew above unseen. The running lights would have been extinguished in battle. The planes maneuvered with precision in formation. It was a triumph of skill.

It can be asserted that had the second bomb exploded forward the ship and a large portion of the crew would have been killed.

On Saturday morning another heavy smoke screen was laid by pursuit planes to windward of the Alabama. This screen was very effective and would have thoroughly protected an air force attacking by daylight with bombs and torpedoes in the case of a hostile fleet at anchor.

LAST AERIAL ATTACK ON ALABAMA TO-NIGHT

Norfolk, Va., Sept. 25.—The final attack upon the old battleship Alabama, which was battered to the water's edge by the rain of bombs from army airplanes, probably will be made to-morrow night, according to officers at Langley Field, who expect Gen. William Mitchell, assistant chief of the Army Air Service, to arrive from Washington to-morrow morning to approve plans for the culminating test.

WORK CONGRESS MEMBERS REPORT TRADE IMPROVING

Harding to Open and Hoover to Preside at Unemployment Meeting Today in Washington, With Sixty Sanguine Delegates Present.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Washington, D. C., Sept. 25.—Reassuring optimism over the business outlook throughout the United States was noticeable to-night among the delegates who have arrived for the beginning to-morrow of the unemployment conference. The delegates came from all sections and brought reports of a better tone in industry, a noticeable increase in retail business and an improvement in commerce. Conditions, they said, are travelling rapidly toward normal.

1,500 JOBLESS SING IN RAIN FOR LEDOUX

'Human Documents' Stay to Hear Him When Curious Run to Avoid Drizzle.

More Jobs Than Men for Nebraska Railroad

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Omaha, Sept. 25.—There is no unemployment in Nebraska and those who talk of no work either don't want work or don't know what they are talking about, according to General Superintendent Flynn of the Burlington Railroad.

For two weeks the Burlington has sought to find men to fill one hundred various jobs and has not been able to obtain them, Mr. Flynn says.

"There may be a serious unemployment crisis in the East," said Mr. Flynn, "but any talk of shortage of work out here is all bunk."

"There are two kinds of people talking about unemployment, those who don't want to work and those who don't know what they are talking about."

Fifteen hundred jobless men, sodden from the incessant drizzle, huddled about the bandstand on the Mall in Central Park last night for Urban J. Ledoux's "supreme concordat."

Several hundred persons, many of them well-dressed women, had gone to the Mall long before the meeting, but when the rain began to fall they put up their umbrellas and went away. Not so with the "human documents." One delegation arrived just before 8 o'clock, led by Harry Barnhart, director of community singing. Barnhart, dressed in a white, mounted the stand and made a short speech. Then the band struck up a number of American songs.

Twenty minutes later another band of men, with Ledoux at the head, swung in out of the darkness on a half trot. The men already there shouted, "Hurray for Ledoux!" and the noise died down. Ledoux began speaking. His remarks were greeted with cheers. Then he led them in prayer.

At first the men almost refused to sing, and simply sat on the wet benches with their heads ducked forward while the rain fell. But after "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" they sang with zest.

Ledoux, though not a delegate to President Harding's conference on unemployment held at midnight for Washington with the announced intention of camping on the White House steps or nearby until the President publishes a list of all firms who made more than 100 per cent. profit in the war.

About 10,000 men were fed during the day by Ledoux's efforts and by various organizations. The Sunset Club, an organization composed of women between 40 and 45 years of age, served dinner in the rooms of the Polish Clubber of Commerce, Forty-second street west of Fifth avenue.

PENNR. R. DEFIES RAIL LABOR BOARD

On Eve of Hearing Asserts Right to Deal With Its Own Employees.

ATTACKS NOVEL RULING

Rea's Letter Refers to U. S. Supreme Court Decisions to Support Position.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 25.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will not present any oral evidence at the hearing granted it by the United States Labor Board in connection with the shop crafts committee election dispute.

The hearing is set for to-morrow at Chicago. The company to-night made public a letter from Samuel R. Rea, president of the road, to the board in which he states that in view of the fact that the board had declined to hear the company directly with each of the law and fact presented in its application for the hearing and had limited the hearing to three points, the company has nothing to present.

Mr. Rea says the carrier "asserts and will exercise its right to deal with its own employees, such as men laid off, furloughed or absent upon leave, shall participate in the election of committees; how the representative capacity of spokesmen of unorganized employees shall be ascertained, and permitting the carrier to offer evidence of the adoption or ratification of its shop craft rules by representatives of the board's majority of the employees of that class."

Mr. Rea in his letter also says: "The carrier reminds the board that in its application it asked the board to order the carrier to make such an election act, that the carrier has the lawful right to establish rules and working conditions in the first instance, either with or without first holding conferences with all boards and tarpaulin over the contract respecting rules and working conditions heretofore entered into by the carrier and its employees in the shop craft rules."

The board has refused to grant a hearing to make such a finding, and has in all respects declined to hear the carrier upon the issues of law and fact presented in its application. It follows, therefore, that the carrier is calling for the carrier to present in the way of oral evidence on the day fixed by the board, September 26.

"The carrier notes that it is referred by the board to its decision, in which the board arrogates to itself the right to ignore the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States determining the rights of employers, employees, and employees, and decides that hitherto unquestioned legal rights of what is known as the 'shop craft' rule."

"The carrier states finally that it has denied and is not now denying the jurisdiction of the labor board to hear and decide such disputes as fall within the purview of the transportation act, but it insists that the board should not invade the domain of management and to assert jurisdiction over grievances of whatsoever kind and character in connection with the employment, the discipline and the discharge of its employees."

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KILLS FATHER-IN-LAW AT TARGET PRACTICE

E. L. Shelters's Firing Held to Be Accidental.

SEANAN LAKE, Sept. 25.—Henry Manley of Salmon River was shot accidentally and instantly killed by his son-in-law, E. L. Shelters, also of Salmon River, late yesterday, it was learned to-day when the body was brought here.

The accident was the first hunting fatality in this section this season. The men had returned from a day's hunting and were engaged in target practice when John Manley, son of the victim, cleaned the rifle and handed it to Shelters, who unlocked the magazine and a moment later, in turning to see an object which his father-in-law had called his attention, discharged the rifle. The bullet struck Manley in the right temple.

Coroner J. A. Farrell of Saranac Lake decided that the shooting was an accident.

BALKY RIFLE KILLS CHUM OF ITS OWNER

Trigger Fails in Shooting at Frogs Before Accident.

A rifle with which Paul Altman of 11 Fulton street, Jamaica, was shooting frogs in Lily Pond, in woods on the north side of Queens Boulevard, failed to fire when the trigger yesterday afternoon pointed it in the air and snapped the trigger several times. Altman lowered his barrel and without noticing it, pointed it directly at Paul Panhorst, 23, of Morningstar and Barakat avenues, Jamaica. He tried the trigger again.

This time the cartridge was discharged. Panhorst fell. The bullet had entered his left eye. Altman ran to the boulevard and sent word to a policeman at a nearby booth. Patrolman Edward J. Bischoff found Panhorst dead.

French Bring Wreaths for Oppau Blast Dead

MANNHEIM, Germany, Sept. 25.—It is estimated that 70,000 persons to-day attended the funerals of the victims of the Oppau explosion at the Ludwigshafen cemetery. The French military authorities were represented by Generals Lenetz and Dandand. Both these officers brought wreaths and expressed condolence to President Ebert of Germany and Premier Lebertenfeld of Bavaria. Herr Erbert replying said he was touched by the manifestation of human sympathy which had set aside the barriers arising from the war.

BOY OF 16 RESCUES TWO MEN IN SURF

Third Man Is Drowned at Atlantic City.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 25.—Leonard Blair, 16, of 3 North Delaware avenue, this city, saved two men from drowning to-day while hundreds looked on from the Boardwalk. The names of the rescued men were not learned. The two men were out about a hundred yards when they were caught by an offset current which swept them out to sea. Blair plunged into the surf, carrying a small life saver's buoy with him. He was caught in a strong wave and launched it through the heavy waves.

Blair reached the two men and helped to hold the younger above the surface while the older clung to the buoy. Then the lifebuoy was thrown to Blair and the two men were hauled aboard.

TO FIGHT BOOTLEGGERS NOW IN 'DRUG BUSINESS'

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 25.—Druggists arriving here to-day for the forty-seventh annual convention of the National Wholesale Druggists Association have declared war on bootleggers. Since the advent of prohibition, it is said, thousands of former saloon keepers have gone into the "drug business," fitting up enormous drug stores to enable them to continue dealing in liquor.

Such places, it is declared, are oftentimes fitted out at the cost of thousands of dollars. A registered pharmacist is hired as a clerk and a stock of proprietary medicines and toilet articles is installed. In many cases, it is declared, only an examination of the books of the concern will show the true nature of their business. Wholesale druggists, it is announced, are willing to assume responsibility of distribution of liquor for medicinal purposes, but they purpose to insist that the Government protect wholesalers by taking greater care in the issuance of permits.

Bootleggers posing as druggists are rapidly bringing the business into disrepute, some of the delegates said to-day.

It is expected that 600 wholesalers will be present at the Hotel Traymore when L. D. Sain, president, calls the convention to order.

7 CHICAGO POLICE FACE LIQUOR TRIAL

Evidence Against Hundreds to Be Put Into Shape for Federal Grand Jury.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, CHICAGO, Sept. 25.—Federal indictment of seven policemen, four of whom are commanding officers, was promised by the Assistant United States Attorney, Harry Brin, as the Government's first move to help Chief Fitzmorris rid the police department of men involved in liquor deals. The United States Attorney, Mr. Cline, said:

"We have evidence against hundreds of policemen, which has been investigated and found true. We are working at top speed to get the evidence in shape for the Federal Grand Jury."

Chief Fitzmorris is better able to judge the extent of the liquor traffic within the department than we are. In return for information we furnish him we shall expect that he will in turn cooperate with us. Policemen caught in the liquor traffic will be punished just the same as other citizens."

The men to be named, Mr. Brin said, are involved in the operations of a band which is said to include Edward Smaiz, Edward Mitchell and Thomas Carline, Detective Sergeant, all of the Deserter street station, now at liberty on bonds of \$20,000 each.

Chief Fitzmorris amplified his statement of Saturday night, when he publicly charged the upward of fifty per cent. of Chicago's police force were identified with the bootlegging industry, by saying:

"Prohibition enforcement in Chicago is a joke. That statement not only goes for the police department but for the citizenry. Thousands of Chicago men and women are interested in violating the prohibition laws every day."

Chief Fitzmorris admitted that at least one captain was named in his sweeping transfer order of Saturday because of his bootlegging operations. He continued:

"To-day saw another wholesale shifting of police captains, lieutenants, sergeants and patrolmen. I will break up the ring of crooked policemen who are hand and glove with these bootlegging rings if I have to issue transfer orders twice a day."

"Chicago is like a dry farm needing water, and the prohibition enforcement office is as futile as any group of men would be who tried to stop the rain and prevent the ground from soaking up the moisture. The only way to make prohibition an actuality here or any place else is to stop liquor at its source."

JOHN T. PRATT TO BE HONORED.

WILL H. HAYES, Postmaster-General; Representative Ogden L. Mills and Mark Sullivan will speak at a testimonial dinner for John T. Pratt, chairman of the National Budget Committee, at the Hotel Pennsylvania to-morrow.

Alfred E. Marling will preside and William M. Chadbourne is head of the dinner. Mr. Pratt directed much of the work for the Federal budget bureau over which Gen. Charles G. Dawes presides.

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