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THE GREENEVILLE DAILY SUN

VOLUME 2—NUMBER 49.

THE GREENEVILLE DAILY SUN, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1919.

FIFTEEN CENTS A WEEK

ALLIED FORCES READY FOR ACTION

All U. S. Troops Except Regulars Are To Be Out of France By June 12th

Allied Forces on Western Front Ready For Action

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(By United Press.)—The allied military forces on the western front are ready for action and are sufficient to handle any military problem that might result from Germany's refusal to sign the peace treaty, Chief of Staff March announced today. French and British troops greatly outnumber the Americans.

Treaty Will be Signed by Allied And German Delegates by June 15th

PARIS, May 24.—(By United Press.)—The treaty will be signed by the allied and German delegates between June 10th and 15th or the armistice will be broken, was the forecast in official circles today. The Germans now expect to hand the allies a counter proposal by May 29th. These will be almost as voluminous as the allies' treaty itself, and will be printed in book form. A trainload of German printing machinery is expected to arrive here Sunday. Premier Paderewski is expected to reach Paris today. The situation in Poland is said to have passed beyond his control. Polish troops are advancing, despite his promise to the allies that hostilities would cease.

Former Commander of Second Army In France to Command Southeastern Department of the Army

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(By United Press.)—Lieut.-Gen. Robert L. Bullard, former commander of the Second army in France, will command the Southeastern Army Department in the United States at his present rank, General March announced today, after concluding important general staff work in Washington.

German Foreign Minister Returns From Spa After Conferring With Government Representatives

VERSAILLES, May 24.—(By United Press.)—Foreign Minister Brockdorff-Rantzau returned here today from Spa, where he conferred yesterday with representatives of the German government, who included Chancellor Scheidemann, Matthias Erzberger, Dr. Bernard Dernburg and Count von Bernstorff.

Three Colored Firemen Dead And Several Passengers Thouse To Be Lost When Ship Burns

NORFOLK, VA., May 24.—(By United Press.)—Three colored firemen are known to be dead, and it is feared several passengers were lost when the Old Bay Line steamship Virginia burned to the water's edge off Smith's Point in Chesapeake bay early today. One hundred survivors were landed at Norfolk. The fire burned so rapidly that few of them had time to dress. The fire was discovered about 1 o'clock at night and the lifeboats were ordered lowered, when fire-fighting apparatus broke and became useless. Several lifeboats were overturned in the haste to leave the burning ship. The list of passengers is being checked up this afternoon to determine whether any were lost.

Steamship Burns to Water's Edge Early Today Near Smith's Point

NORFOLK, VA., May 24.—(By United Press.)—The Old Bay Line steamship Virginia burned to the water's edge early today near Smith's Point. It is not yet known whether any lives were lost. The Chesapeake Line steamer City of Baltimore sicked up the survivors and is bringing them to Norfolk. Other survivors were picked up by Washington and Baltimore boats.

Three Killed and Five Injured When Train Struck Picnic Truck

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 24.—(By United Press.)—Three persons were killed and five seriously injured, three probably fatally and many more hurt when an automobile truck in which they were returning from a picnic was struck by a freight train at a crossing near Bessemer.

Sergt. York Places New York at Top of List

NEW YORK, May 24.—Tennessee mountaineer though he is, Sergeant Alvin C. York, American hero of the Argonne, was completely at home among the hundreds of Tennesseans and prominent guests at the banquet to the Pall Mall elder in the Waldorf-Astoria last night.

Seated between General Duncan of the 82nd division and Admiral Gleaves, chief of the transport during the war, Sergeant York was perfectly at ease. He had spent a busy day seeing New York and having an aching tooth attended by a dentist, but he took keen delight in the testimonial dinner.

His reply to the toastmaster when called upon to speak impressed his hearers as nothing else has since his return from the field of honor in France. A brilliant speech was not expected of the soldier backwoodsman, and indeed his hearers did not know just what to expect from Sergeant York. He was perfectly at ease when he arose, and his entire bearing under the circumstances greatly impressed the gathering. He made no pretense of disguising the fact that he was not an after dinner speaker.

"I am not a speaker," he said, "and I know you all don't expect a speech from me. I only wish I could tell you just how I feel and what is in me that I can't express. But I want you to know that I greatly appreciate what you have done for me and the kindness you have shown me since I came back. Everything has been fine. I thank you."

After a sightseeing tour around the city during the day Sergeant York put New York first, London second and Paris third. Sergeant York's tooth started aching when he left the transport Ohioian the day he landed. An army dentist filling in one of his teeth came out. Between that tooth and the unaccustomed feel of a real bed after fourteen months' army life, he frankly said he did not have a good time that first night in New York.

Accompanied by several members of the Tennessee reception committee, York visited a dentist and had the tooth treated.

"He handled me pretty rough," said the man who picked off Germans like turkeys at holiday shooting. "Those army doctor filling always come out if the beef stew is not quite done."

Sergeant York lunched in a restaurant in the Whitehall building overlooking the bay. When he appeared in the visitor's gallery at the New York stock exchange some one on the floor recognized him.

"There's Sergeant York," the cry went up.

An almost unprecedented scene for the stock exchange followed when the freckled hero was brought down upon the floor where outsiders are rarely allowed. Gray haired brokers and messenger boys joined in a din of cheers, whistles and whoops, and fought to shake his hand.

At the Woolworth building he was shown through the private office of the late F. W. Woolworth and was the whisked to the tower for a view of the city. It was there that Paris definitely dropped to third place in his estimation.

Hail Stones Piled Up Two Feet Deep

WILLIAMSPORT, PA., May 24.—A hail storm two and a half miles in width, which swept across Sugar Valley early last night, covered the ground until it looked as if snow had fallen. In places the hailstones were piled by surface water to a depth of 18 to 24 inches, doing great damage to the crops.

County Court Elects John Gardner As Trustee

County Court met in special session this morning, with all the magistrates present. The special session was called to elect a successor to the late W. R. Bailey as trustee of Greene county, to transact some road business and to elect a member of the High School Board to succeed Mr. Bailey.

Court met about 10 o'clock, but remained in session only a short time, adjourning to go into a caucus at 11 o'clock a. m. Their were four candidates before the caucus for trustee: Messrs. John M. Henard, A. A. Roberts, Sidney J. Broyles and John Gardner, present deputy trustee. Several votes were taken, Mr. Broyles withdrawing from the race first.

The next to withdraw was Mr. Roberts, who was running third, and upon final vote between Mr. Gardner and Mr. Henard, Gardner received nineteen votes and Mr. Henard fifteen. The close contest throughout shows the popularity of each one of the gentlemen offering for the position. When court went into session again at 1 o'clock, the work of the caucus was sustained and Mr. Gardner was appointed trustee for Greene county, to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. W. R. Bailey.

Mr. O. C. Morrison, of Baileyton, was elected a member of the High School Board of Greene county, succeeding Mr. Bailey, who had served for a number of years.

Mr. Gardner, the newly elected trustee, is well known to the citizens of Greene county. He has been deputy trustee ever since Mr. Bailey entered the trustee's office three years ago. He is an efficient, painstaking, kind and courteous official, and his election will meet with the hearty approval of the people of the county in general.

\$70,000,000 Mark Passed

CHATTANOOGA, May 24.—The centenary drive of the Northern branch of the Northern Methodist Episcopal church has passed the \$70,000,000 mark, according to information given out yesterday by the southern campaign headquarters, located here. The total sought over the entire country is \$105,000,000, which will be used for the extension of the denomination's home and foreign missionary work.

The amount which has been raised by the church in the southern division comprising the Chattanooga, New Orleans and Atlanta areas, cannot be accurately estimated yet, but reports coming in are extremely encouraging. The quota in this territory is \$5,000,000. Approximately \$3,000,000 of this is in hand.

Killed While Greeting Soldiers

NEW YORK, May 24.—Ever since troops have been returning home via Camp Merritt, the little girls of Tenafly, N. J., have been at the station of the Northern Railway of New Jersey to welcome every troop train.

Anna Campbell, nine years old, bolted out yesterday with the announcement she was going to meet the "sojers" who had arrived on the Leviathan.

She stumbled and fell under the engine. Two cars passed over her. Both legs were severed and she was killed.

Hundreds of soldiers rushing from their cars made an effort to hold back the tears.

In Anna's hand when they extricated her form, was still gripped tightly the pennant inscribed, "Welcome."

Abducted and Imprisoned on Hun U-Boat

AYER, MASS., May 24.—A class in mathematics was conducted at the trial of Paul L. Nace at Camp Devens yesterday, when military authorities attempted to break down Nace's story that he was a prisoner on a German submarine and at a submarine base in South America from May 24 to October 14, 1918. He is charged with being absent without leave.

Nace was cross-examined for five hours and did not once digress from the account he gave on a previous recital of his experience.

The soldier testified previously that while he was a prisoner the Germans attempted to make him disclose plans for a new type of airplane which he had invented. He said that before being inducted into service from New York state he was employed at the aviation field at Mineola, L. I., where he met a man named Rudolph Gregan, or Greghorn.

Greghorn, according to Nace, knew that he was working on a new type of airplane. He said Greghorn followed him to Camp Devens, and that one evening when they met near the cantonment Greghorn struck him over the head and then abducted him in an automobile.

Balloon Lands On Hotel Roof

CLEVELAND, O., May 24.—For the first time in the history of flying in America a vehicle of the air was brought to a convenient stop in the heart of a large city when a dirigible balloon landed on the top of a prominent hotel last evening to permit two of its five passengers to alight. The 160-foot dirigible, the A 1, landed on a specially constructed platform 30 by 30 feet. The landing was made after seven attempts.

The balloon, piloted by James Shade, made the trip from Wingfoot Lake naval air station near Akron, approximately 35 miles, in a little more than one hour, despite the fact that it faced a stiff wind.

Ralph H. Upson, world's champion balloonist, winner of the last international balloon race, which was held at Paris in 1913, and Major C. H. Maranville, flying instructor at the training station, were among the passengers.

U. S. To Lead In Air Is Federal Intent

Assistant War Secretary Crowell Goes to Study in Europe—Would Rival Autos.

NEW YORK, May 24.—Assistant Secretary of War Benedict Crowell is on his way to Europe, as the head of a commission which will study means of developing the commercial airplane industry in this country. He left on the transport Mount Vernon.

He said when he sailed that, in his opinion, American air supremacy could be attained only with the aid of a government subsidy.

As the result of a conference to be held with the Air Ministers of England, France and Italy, he hopes to be able to aid the government in bringing about a restoration to the United States of air supremacy, won by European nations by taking advantage of the fundamentals of aviation discovered and applied by American pioneers.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(By United Press.)—All American combat divisions except the regular army units will have sailed from France by June 12th, General March stated today.

Unfavorable Weather Again Prevents Start of Flight From Ponta Del Gada

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(By United Press.)—Unfavorable weather again today blocked the plans of Commander Read at Ponta Del Gada to "jump off" in the seaplane NC-4 for Lisbon, cables to the navy department stated. It is hoped he will be able to start tomorrow morning.

Sergeant York Visited Secretary Baker and White House Today

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(By United Press.)—Sergeant York, Tennessee war hero, called on Secretary Baker today, accompanied by Representative Hull. York called at the white house later. He gave the impression of extreme bashfulness, which is amazing in view of his war exploits.

Gasoline Explosion in New Jersey Injures Many Persons Today

BAYONNE, N. J., May 24.—(By United Press.)—Twenty-six persons were injured, many seriously, in a gasoline explosion at the plant of the Standard Oil company here this afternoon, according to employes of the company. It is unknown whether anyone was killed.

Operations of Villa Causing Alarm Western Senators Defend Covenant

Americans Ask for Special Trains to Remove Families from Danger Zones—Situation Serious.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Official advices from various parts of Mexico, which have been received here daily for the past two weeks, indicate that the situation in the Northern part of that country, due to the operations of Francisco Villa is more serious than hitherto has been reported. It was learned today from an authoritative source that Villa and his organized force of rebels was now threatening parts of Durango as well as Chihuahua to the north.

American mining men, it was learned, have asked for special trains to be ready to remove them and their families from the danger zone when Villa approaches. Officials asserted, however, that as yet no American had been molested by the Villistas and that Villa himself had treated all Americans with consideration. Some American property has, however, been taken by the Villistas when they needed food, material and funds, and Villa has stated that this would be considered as a tax inasmuch as Carranza, to whom they had been paying taxes, could no longer protect them.

Wilson's Message Praised In Paris

Document Is Regarded as Domestic Affair and Little Attention Is Given It.

PARIS, May 24.—Considering it to be wholly a domestic affair, the French press pays little attention to President Wilson's message to congress. Only parts of it are published, with words of comment that laud the president for his labor utterances and for other reforms that he approves. A dissenting voice is raised by Rene Dard in the Gaulois, who says:

"The force of persuasion which the President has exercised in the peace conference has prevailed from the fact that he has always said he spoke in the name of the people of the United States, of which he was the authorized mouthpiece. We will now see if that view is supported by the representatives of the nation now gathered in Washington."

Western Senators Defend Covenant

League and Treaty Must Stand or Fall Together, Says Pittman.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—"An amendment of the peace treaty by the United States senate with regard to the league of nations covenant would be, in effect, a rejection of the treaty," said Senator Pittman, of Nevada, yesterday afternoon. He believes the covenant and treaty are inseparable.

"If any amendment is adopted by the senate," explained Mr. Pittman, "then the whole procedure of the negotiation of the treaty again must be entered into. The treaty itself provides that when ratified by Germany and three of the allied powers it shall go into effect and be binding upon the signatory nations. When it has thus been ratified it will be too late to call another peace conference."

Senator Phelan, of California, returned Thursday from a western trip. "The sentiment of the people is overwhelmingly in favor of the league of nations," he said. "There is a disposition in the west to criticize sharply Senators Lodge, Borah, Reed and those who strongly oppose the league agreement. 'Do these men want perpetual war?' is the question asked by the people."

Wealthy Farmer Brought to Jail

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 23.—Fayette Irwin, 53, a wealthy Rutherford county farmer, was brought to the Nashville jail today charged with the murder of John H. King, prominent Rutherford county farmer, whose body was found hidden under a pile of brush near his home in that county on May 11.

Great secrecy was preserved by the Rutherford county officers in the arrest of Irwin and bringing him here for safe keeping. King disappeared on May 8th, and his body was not found until the following Sunday night, when the actions of a dog attracted searchers to the brush pile. A bullet through the aged farmer's head had caused his death.