

# THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

A cross-check (X) in this space means that your subscription is about to expire and will be discontinued if not renewed within 30 days.

VOL. 6

Elkin, N. C., Thursday, Feb. 28, 1918

No. 47

## BOY OF 17 GETS 3 GERMAN PLANES

The Thomas Hitchcocks of New York, flying for the allies, may safely lay claim to being the kaiser's oldest and youngest opponents in the air. The elder Hitchcock, 57 years old, a noted horseman and poloist, is now a reserve military aviator, and "Little Tommy," his 17 year old son, has just brought down two more German planes and has been awarded the "croix de guerre," according to official reports from Paris. This brings his total up to three boche planes in his first month at the front.

Less than eight months ago Corporal Hitchcock was a senior at St. Paul's Preparatory school at Concord, N. H. He left his studies and asked his father's permission to enlist in the American flying service. "I could not without my permission," the father says, "because I wanted to join the aviation service myself. I passed the tests and finally became an instructor at the Mincola flying field on Long Island, but Tommy was turned down by the examining board on account of his extreme youth. Then he asked permission to go to France and join the Lafayette escadrille, which, until recently, was a part of the French army, and I allowed him to go."

Young Hitchcock sailed for France late in the summer and went into training at Avord, the French school for aviators. After several weeks of preliminary training here he was sent to Pau, where he finished his course in gymnastics and trick flying. The youthful flier cannot have been in the actual combat zone more than a month, according to his father, who has letters from the boy showing that he was still in training until a few weeks ago.

His first air victory came January 15, and he was made a corporal as a reward for his success. In a letter to his father Thomas, Jr., tells of the flight over the German lines:

"I was flying in the Vosges with an official French observer when I had my first fight. We were about 8,000 feet high and well over the German lines when we spotted the enemy airman and started after him. We had the advantage of a faster machine and we caught up with him after a short chase. He started down as soon as we opened fire and we dropped after him, firing all the time. Finally, his plane started to drop, clearly out of control, and we watched it hit the ground in flames."

All this came under the eye of the French observer and it was counted as the boy's first official victory.

His last two victories came in the last few days in a short period of fine weather. He made the flights alone and in the first of them he downed a 2-seater, fifteen miles within the German lines, after a running flight in which he, by skillful maneuvering, gained the advantage of a greater height and sent his opponent down with a hail of machine gun fire.

His last fight nearly cost him his life when his plane was struck by machine gun bullets. This fight came when he was guarding a reconnoitering airplane on a trip over the German lines. The observations had been made and a number of photographs taken and they were ready to return to their own lines when two enemy planes dropped out of the clouds and attacked the slower of the machines. Hitchcock managed to draw the attack from the reconnoitering plane which escaped, but he himself was left in a dangerous position. By means of spiral diving and by using many of the tricks learned at the flying school he wriggled out and separated the two enemy planes.

One of them gave up the chase but the other followed. When he neared his own lines Hitchcock turned and gave fight to the German. The two planes cir-

## RETIALIATORY STEPS TO EXTERMINATE SNIPERS

E. Paso, Tex., Feb. 23.—Retaliatory measures will be taken to exterminate snipers who have been firing on American border patrols recently unless there is an immediate cessation, it was declared tonight following the shooting of Capt. Joseph N. Marx late today. If necessary United States troops will cross the line to deal with the snipers, it was declared.

Captain Marx inadvertently crossed the boundary line at a point which is not clearly defined. Mexican snipers opened fire at once, wounding Captain Marx in the leg and killing his mount. The captain was brought back across the line by his men.

An enlisted man was seen to fall when the snipers fired, but investigation proved he was only thrown from his horse. The American patrol returned the fire, but it was not known whether any one was hit.

Several minutes at an altitude of nearly ten thousand feet, and then the American flier gained an advantageous position, that of being lower and behind his opponent. He opened up with his machine gun and the German began to dive with Hitchcock at his heels. The last seen of the boche plane was when it was near the ground, apparently out of control. It was after this fight Corporal Hitchcock was awarded the "croix de guerre."

Besides the loss of three German planes the kaiser has other reasons to bear a grudge against the Hitchcock clan. The original cause for the German emperor's dislike for this "brazen family" dates back to 1902, when Thomas Hitchcock, Sr., refused to give up his box at the Metropolitan Opera House to the German Prince Henry who was visiting in this country. An account of this incident was given in a Washington dispatch, February 2, 1902. The dispatch follows:

"If Thomas Hitchcock, of New York, who has declined to surrender his box at the Metropolitan Opera House on the occasion of Prince Henry's visit, should present himself at the German embassy at this time, even the servants would snub him. Prior to the disagreeable incident in New York there has been nothing to mar the happiness of the German embassy and the distinguished German-American citizens who were co-operating with official America in arranging the details of the prince's visit. So smoothly had the things gone and so pleasant were the reports from Germany about the kaiser's interest in the event that those in touch with the officers at the embassy had predicted that the kaiser himself would be the next visitor to the United States."

"The kaiser is the most democratic monarch of Europe and while a trip to the United States would be unusual it would be not an extraordinary thing for Emperor William to do."

"In refusing to surrender the desired box to the prince, Mr. Hitchcock says: 'I am not willing to give up my box at the opera to Prince Henry.' Not content with this declaration, Mr. Hitchcock continued, 'If the box in the tier above me is not good enough for the prince it is not good enough for me.'

"In order to arrange the details of a visit where the personality of the individual is to be lost sight of, each entertainment provided must be in its nature an official function. That is why the Hitchcock incident worries the committee on arrangements and the German embassy. Everybody in the United States will understand that Mr. Hitchcock is making a play to the galleries, but the emperor and the prince, who are not in close touch with this manner of doing things, may not comprehend it.—Charlotte Observer.

## BRITISH TROOPS BEING MOVED UP TOWARD THE WEST FRONT ON FRENCH CANAL BARGES



Photographs have arrived in this country showing troops being moved to the front on motorlorries, on light railways and on foot, but perhaps never before has a picture come showing troops being moved to the front on barges via canals, which bring them a short distance from the front. The rest of the journey is made on foot. These barges are loaded with the happy Tommies, and they make reasonably fast progress to the front, though of course not as fast as motorlorries or light railways. The Tommies enjoy this method of travel, as it gives them a good opportunity to view the prettier sections of France.

## NEBRASKA POTASH—A SIGNAL VICTORY FOR AMERICA

The development of American Potash Sources to a point where we are no longer dependent upon Germany for this necessary plant food, is one of the most important victories won by American skill, ingenuity and resourcefulness. As the Nebraska Lakes furnish most of the American Potash, it will be interesting to many to know how this Nebraska Potash is obtained.

Deposits and brines rich in potash are found in a number of lakes and ponds which are scattered over the sandy region of west central Nebraska. These ponds vary in size from less than an acre to two square miles, and the quantity of water varies greatly with the season, and some are comparatively fresh, while others contain a high percentage of material in solution.

These ponds lie in small inclosed basins which have no outlet, consequently the dissolved material in the drainage water has remained, as the water evaporated. The material in these deposits and brines resembles closely the leachings from wood ashes, which may have been the source of much of this material, for the surrounding country was formerly covered with a good growth of grass and brush, and the region has been repeatedly burned over. This, however is only one of the many views held as to the origin of the potash in these lakes.

Jesse Lake is one of the largest of these lakes, and the one which contains the most potash, and is the one from which most of the Nebraska potash has been shipped. The lake is shallow and covers about 240 acres. The depth and concentration of the water varies with the amount of rainfall. Its bottom is composed of dark greenish mud, beneath which is a sand charged with a brine much like that of the surface water. The sand is said to be 20 feet thick in places to rest on an impervious bottom. The brine found in the sand is more uniform in composition than the surface water and is the main source of the potash supply. Wells are sunk into this sand and the brine pumped to the plant. There the water is evaporated and the residue dried and shipped without refining. The water is partially removed by first heating the brine and then pumping it to wooden towers where it passes by gravity over partitions arranged like slats in a window blind, thus partially concentrating the brine. It is then passed to vacuum pans where more water is driven off and it then goes to cooling and crystallizing vats when after several days much of the salts crystallize out. The liquor is then drawn off and returned to the concentration system and the salts shovelled out and dried in a rotary drum furnace. The potash salts are then

ready for the market and contain a few per cent of water and about 20 or 27 per cent potash, which is practically all in the form of sulphate and carbonate. This material is alkaline, and will therefore help to neutralize the acidity of acid soils, and make them produce better crops.

The product shipped therefore, is essentially of the same composition as the brine of the lake, and as it was all in solution in the lake and has only had the water driven off it will go back in solution when water is added, consequently all of the potash is soluble in water and is all available to plants.

## GERMAN BOMBARDMENT BECOMES MORE INTENSE

With the American Army in France, Feb. 24. (By the Associated Press.)—Last night and today the German bombardment on various points with the American lines northwest of Toul was considerably more intense than usual. The enemy, who was more active in many ways, apparently was using more guns than customary.

Little damage has been done by the bombardment, although three men were slightly wounded early this morning.

Last night enemy patrols made persistent efforts to penetrate the American wire defenses, but without success. One patrol was fired upon and driven off while wire cutting, probably preparatory to a contemplated raid. Large troop movements are going on back of the enemy's lines during the night.

There was no aerial activity today, owing to weather conditions.

## HOUSES CRYING NEED OF NORFOLK, NEWPORT NEWS

Washington, Feb. 23.—Housing facilities at Norfolk and Newport News, Va., have been exhausted by the influx of workers employed by firms having \$200,000,000 in war contracts, and 35,000 additional men needed to expedite production cannot be employed until houses are built, according to a report today by the United States employment service. The conditions in the Norfolk district were said to emphasize the importance of the modest dwelling house to the war program.

The report said: "Two hundred million dollars is being expended in this district in a few months' time. 85,000 workers are now engaged and the housing facilities are exhausted. Norfolk and Newport News are bursting with new population. Farms for 50 miles around are swarming with accustomed workers. Agents of 12 contractors are fighting each other for the labor now on hand. To complete the program 35,000 additional workers must be brought to the scene from other parts of the country where there is a surplus of labor, but this cannot be done until houses are built."

## U. S. A. OFFICER GIVEN 25 YEARS

New York, Feb. 24.—Capt. David A. Henkes, Sixth infantry, U. S. A., has been sentenced to dismissal from the service and confinement at hard labor for 25 years by a general court-martial held at Governor's island.

Henkes, who is of German descent, endeavored to resign his commission, saying he did not care to fight against relatives and friends.

Captain Henkes, who was stationed at San Antonio last May, wrote the secretary of war, urging him to accept his resignation, which he had already submitted, and giving reasons which, he declared, would no longer allow him to serve as an officer of the American army.

"Further service as a commissioned officer must sooner or later take me to Europe, and there bring me in conflict with my relatives and friends, although for the time being my legal enemies," Captain Henkes wrote. "My father came from Germany, my mother was born here shortly after the arrival of her parents. We have many other relatives and friends there."

"I cannot force myself to the conviction that I am capable of making war on my kindred upon their soil in a manner that would become my duty and station. I earnestly request that I may not be required to undergo this ordeal. I seriously doubt my ability to withstand it, and would avoid, in the interest of my country, family and friends, what at least appears to be the probable consequences."

Captain Henkes suggested as an alternative that he be given service in some other field. Soon after he had submitted his resignation, he was ordered to France with the American expeditionary forces, and from there, June 29, 1917, wrote to the adjutant general in Washington calling attention to the fact that he had resigned, and declaring that his battalion commander, the department quartermaster and the commanding officer of the southern department had approved his action. He repeated the reasons for desiring to quit the service.

Again on October 10, while still on duty in France, Captain Henkes wrote the adjutant general stating acceptance of his resignation.

Captain Henkes was then ordered to this country, and summoned before a general court-martial at Governor's island, where he was formally charged with violation of the 95th article of war. This charge recited that "having taken an oath of office in which, among other things, he swore to support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and he would bear true faith and allegiance to the same," had written the letters concerning his resignation. The court-martial found him

## FIRST EXPERIENCE IN FIGHTING OF AMERICAN LINE.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 22.—In a patrol fight, Americans from units under instruction in the famous Chemin des Dames sector killed one German and captured another. One American was slightly wounded.

This is the first time that it has been permitted to reveal that new American units have entered the line. The troops have been there for some time.

Details of the patrol fight are as yet unavailable, beyond the unofficial report that the prisoner taken was captured single handed by a young American from one of the New England states, who, during the engagement, dropped into a shellhole on top of a German hiding there and later brought him in.

Throughout the irregular period of service in the line, these troops have displayed great eagerness to establish a record equal to or better than that of the troops holding the sector northwest of Toul.

The orders for them to leave their billets came suddenly a few weeks ago. The troops entrained and rode to the railroad nearest the position into which they were going. They knew whether they were bound, and welcomed the opportunity to start the work of fighting the Germans.

The units as they detrained were received by the French general commanding the sector, who kissed the American flag reverently and addressed the men, saying that he held them in the same regard as his own soldiers, and that they were brothers in arms, fighting for the same great cause.

He warned them to be cautious in dealing with the enemy over the distant hills. The French soldiers, he said, were skilful in hunting these "wild beasts," were glad of the opportunity to pass along all they knew to their American comrades. He recognized that they were courageous and anxious to test themselves against the enemy, but advised that they should go slow at first.

The troops made a long march to the line, singing at intervals, to help the feet move faster and lighten the load they were carrying. They passed through mile after mile of shell-scarred, desolate ground, and through a number of great piles of stoves and debris which once were villages, but now without a single house left standing. The scenes of destruction of such a large scale impressed the Americans deeply and many of them expressed the hope that they would soon be able to help punish the perpetrators.

The troops marched into the line on one of the darkest nights and took up their positions without a hitch, to the music of the roaring guns, both friendly and hostile, their flashes frequently stabbing the blackness of the night, first here and then there, as fast as the eye could see.

An American general with these troops had not been in the field two hours when the enemy dropped a number of 6 inch shells close by him. It was the general's first experience under fire, but he continued his work coolly, remarking that he was no more nervous than he thought he would be.

The troops in this sector are all virtually husky specimens, and there are many six footers among them. They come from a cold climate, and quickly adapted themselves to the field conditions at this season.

The reserve units are quartered in the Aisne quarries nearby, which are twenty feet underground, and one of which is capable of sheltering 3,000 men.

The report was signed by Major General William A. Mann, commanding the department of the east, and by Col. W. A. Simpson, retired, adjutant.

## INSTRUCTOR AND TWO CADETS ARE KILLED

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 23.—A civilian flying instructor and two cadets at the United States aviation training school at Park field, near here, are dead as the result of a collision between two airplanes shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The dead: Guy H. Reagle, of Chicago, civilian instructor; James H. Webb, of Rome, Ga., flying cadet; Robert Gray, Jr., of Long Island, N. Y., a flying cadet.

The collision occurred when the airplanes were at an altitude of about 500 feet and both machines crashed to earth, burying the bodies of the three victims in a mass of wreckage. All three bodies were frightfully mangled.

## PEACE OR FIGHT TO FINISH, SAID TROTSKY

London, Feb. 24.—If peace is not brought about, the Russians will fight to a finish, Leon Trotsky, the Russian foreign minister, is quoted as having said in an interview with the Petrograd correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company. The interview follows:

"If we don't get a separate peace, we shall fight to a finish. We do not lose hope. We are informed from Stockholm that relations between Berlin and Vienna are strained. If we possessed an army able to fight we would start war with Germany."

"If there is anyone able to resist the German invasion it is our (bolshhevik) party. We have declared that we were forced to sign a peace declaration and our humiliation is not greater than when strikers are forced to agree to the terms of the capitalists. The first symptoms of the panic will soon pass and we shall apply resolute methods in order to finish the war."

## WHOLESALE INTERNMENT OF GERMAN ALIENS IS PLANNED

Washington, Feb. 23.—Preparations are being made by the department of justice for internment of several hundred Germans who failed to register at the nation-wide census of German enemy aliens three weeks ago. A few arrests already have been made, and these will continue in increasingly greater numbers during the next 10 days or two weeks.

Internment will be imposed only on Germans who appear to have refused deliberately to register. United States marshals and attorneys have been instructed to deal leniently with Germans who show evidence of having failed to register because of carelessness, and to permit their enrollment even at this late time.

## GERMANS CONCENTRATE ARTILLERY ON AMERICANS

With the American Army in France, Saturday, Feb. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—In the American sector northwest of Toul today the Germans tried the tactics of concentrating artillery fire on one of the American positions, apparently with the purpose of obliterating it. The American guns immediately punished the German batteries with a doubly heavy retaliatory fire and then swept the enemy lines with a vicious barrage, undoubtedly inflicting considerable damage.

The German guns promptly ceased fire. Whether they were silenced or stopped firing for other reasons is unknown, but since that time hardly a shot has been fired from that point.

Last night a German patrol was found once more within the American wire. It was driven back by machine gun and rifle fire. American patrols worked freely without interference.

The Germans today dropped into the American trenches an entirely new type of bomb, resembling a baseball. No damage was done.

Along the front generally there was less firing, owing to low visibility. The Germans continued to shell their targets in the woods behind the lines, adding one town, which hitherto has not been shelled.