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SECRETARY BAKER SUCCESSFULLY HAS PASSED THROUGH SUBMARINE ZONE

Washington, March 10.—Upon hearing of Secretary Baker's safe arrival in France through the Associated Press dispatch from Paris, the war department tonight announced that the secretary's visit is purely military and not diplomatic, and is for purposes of inspection and personal conferences with military officials. Mr. Baker is accompanied by Major General William M. Black, chief of engineers; Lieutenant Colonel M. L. Brett and Ralph Hayes, his private secretary.

No official report on the secretary's arrival had been received. The department issued this statement:

"A cable dispatch from Paris to the Associated Press tonight announces the arrival at a French port of the secretary of war.

"For sometime Secretary Baker has desired to visit the headquarters of the American expeditionary forces. He sailed from an American port about February 27.

"Secretary Baker has not determined the length of time he will remain in France but his stay will be long enough to enable him to make a thorough inspection of the American forces abroad and to hold important conferences with American military officials.

"It is expected that not only will Secretary Baker visit the American headquarters but his inspection tour will cover construction projects, including railroads, docks and ordnance bases, now under way back of the American lines.

"The secretary's visit is military and not diplomatic. It is essentially for the purpose of inspection and personal conference with military officials.

"The secretary of war is accompanied by Maj. Gen. W. M. Black, Lieut. Col. M. L. Brett and Ralph Hayes, private secretary to Mr. Baker."

Secretary Baker plans to spend a brief time in France, inspecting in person the concrete results already achieved in the efforts of his department to place in the field this year an army that will be a factor in the campaign. On the eve of his departure, Mr. Baker told members of the press who had been in the habit of seeing him every day that he did not expect to be away for any considerable length of time.

The secretary and his party left Washington without any other attempt to conceal their movements than a request that the press refrain from reporting his departure. The newspapers again worked in hearty co-operation to make the journey as safe as possible from German submarines for the party. No hint of the trip has been printed.

For several months the war secretary has been eager to see for himself conditions at the front and to talk over with General Pershing, the man upon whom the full burden of responsibility for the entire American war program in France has been placed, the many problems that have arisen to impede the carrying out of the department's plans. It was impossible for General Pershing to come home for such a conference. Mr. Baker therefore determined, after many conferences with President Wilson, to go himself on an inspection tour which will, he believes, better fit him for his great responsibility in meeting General Pershing's requirements in fighting men and materials and keeping in operation a supply line more than 3,000 miles long.

It is regarded as probable, too, that the secretary will take the opportunity to inform the American commander in the field very fully as to all hopes and aims of the government which are at stake in the war.

Mr. Baker is the first member of President Wilson's cabinet to go to the battle zone. Out of his

CRIMINAL AND FOOLISH NOT TO LET THE JAPS INTERVENE IN SIBERIA

Washington, March 9.—Lord Cecil, British under secretary of state, says it would be criminal and foolish not to let the Japanese intervene in Siberia. His statement to the press, however, is not regarded as the final judgment of the British government, though it may in the end prove part of the usual method by which British opinion is often prepared for announcements of policy.

In any event, it is the first public expression which is at variance with the views of the United States government. Except for the informal outgiving here to the effect that America believed an expedition by any country into Russian territory would be inadvisable because of its possible adverse effect on the Russian people, nobody in authority has said anything to refute the impression of military danger of which Lord Cecil gives intimation when he outlines German prisoners in Siberia.

This brings out clearly that both the United States and British governments are still thinking hypothetically about the situation and without a definite knowledge of what Germany's plans are. Policy depends more than ever on a question of fact. Can the Germans be of serious trouble in Siberia with Japanese troops in northern Manchuria and Mongolia ready to invade Siberia if the Germans do get a foothold? And would the Germans risk such an expedition with the Japanese able to cut off their lines of communication and possibly capture the entire German force?

Again, the American government counsels caution because if no military crisis arises in Siberia, and the Japanese intervention has served to antagonize the Russian people another one of those allied blunders in the Russian situation will be chronicled such as Arnold Dosch-Fleuret, of the New York World outlined recently in his dispatch from Petrograd, pointing out how Andrew Bonar Law's utterances tended to weaken the Kerensky government and bring the Lenin-Trotsky party into power.

MUCH SHIP BUILDING IS NOW IN PROGRESS

Washington, March 9.—Progress of the steel shipbuilding campaign was made public tonight by the shipping board in figures of deliveries and launchings which show a steady upward trend since the first of the year.

In February, 17 vessels of 120,700 tons were completed and put into service. The total was nearly twice that of January, admittedly a bad month, when only nine vessels with a tonnage of 79,541 were delivered. March deliveries at the present rate are expected to reach 23 vessels of 188,275 tons.

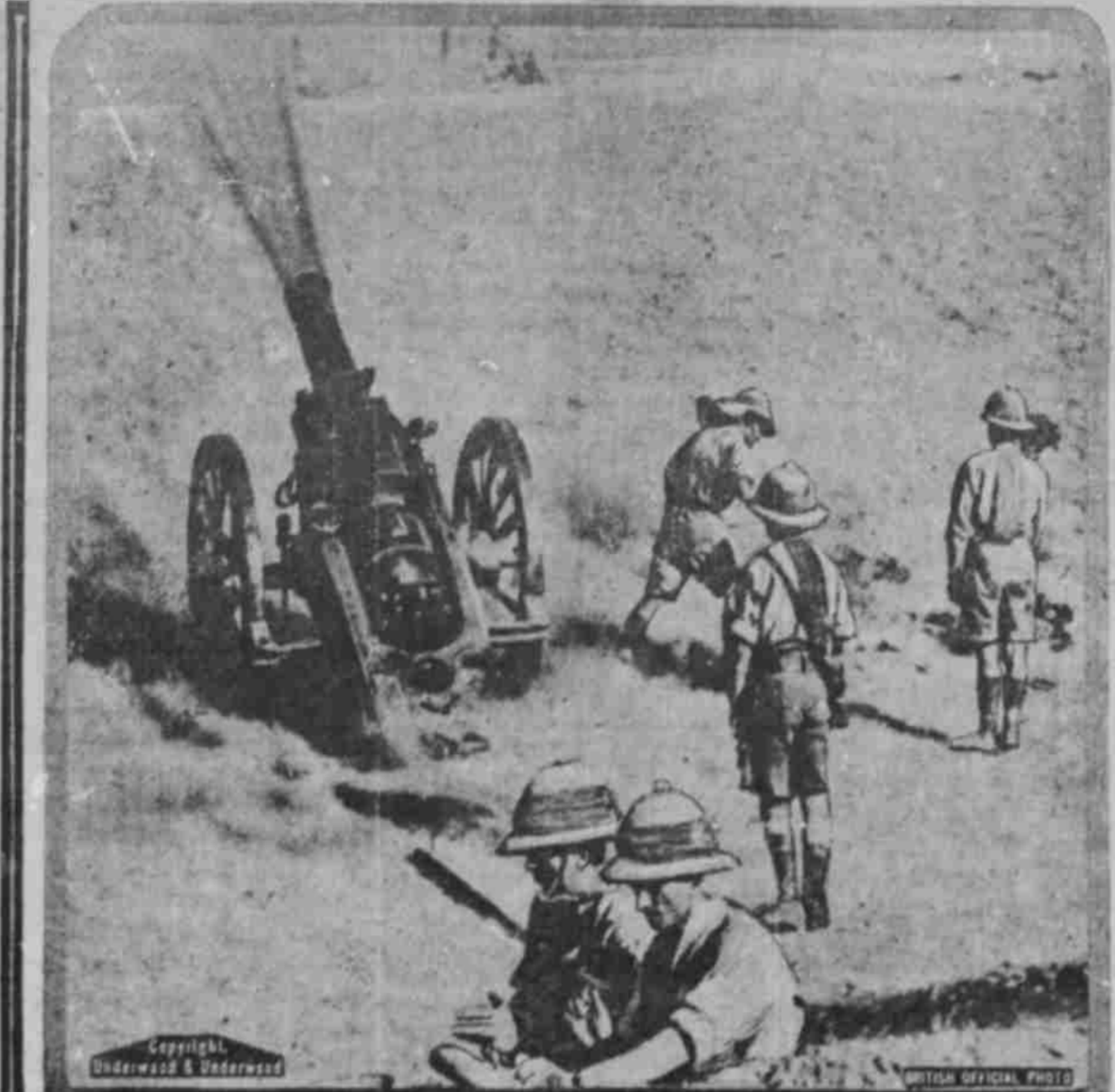
Launchings have more than kept pace with deliveries, 16 ships of 112,500 tons having been put overboard in January and 15 of 77,900 tons were launched in February. During March it is expected that 35 vessels, with a tonnage of 220,591, will be sent down the ways.

Of the vessels completed in February, 15 were cargo carriers, one was a tanker and one a collier. The March schedule calls for the delivery of 14 cargo vessels, seven tankers and two colliers.

conferences, not only with General Pershing, but with the leaders of the French and British governments as well, will come direct information for the President as to what is transpiring in the allied countries to aid him in shaping his future course.

The war secretary is in Europe as the President's official representative, and the fact that it is his war secretary and not a diplomatic representative, is regarded as evidence of the determination of the President to press the war aggressively to victory.

BANGING THE TURK IN THE MESOPOTAMIAN DESERT



Though little is heard about it in comparison with the momentous happenings that daily occur on the western and eastern front, an important phase of the war is being conducted in Mesopotamia. A British army is steadily banging away at the Turks, driving them farther and farther into the desert. While the Tommies fighting in the snow and the cold on the western front may envy their comrades in the Euphrates-Tigris valley, the men fighting in the desert are not having a picnic. They have more heat than they can stand and the arid desert is intolerable to white men. Yet they are keeping at it, and this British official photograph shows one of their big field pieces, just as it was fired, making the Turks step lively across the sands.

SAD, SAD NEWS, GIRLS, SAMMIES ARE TAKING WIVES 'OVER THERE'

With The American Army in France, March 9.—Girls of America, I've sad news for you.

Your French sisters are taking your soldier beaux away from you.

Don't be too sure that that soldier lover of yours, after the war, is going to rush home by the first boat, jump into civilian attire and beat it for the little church around the corner with you.

A whole lot of "our boys" have already married French girls and more would be doing it if they had the time and money.

Thousands of such marriages are going to result from the American "invasion" of France.

It's the chance of a lifetime for the French girls. Most of the young Frenchmen of marriageable age were killed off in the early days of the war.

It follows naturally then that the girls in the war zone should take to the fine, clean upstanding American boys who came across the ocean to help drive the Huns from their beloved France.

The further fact that every American is looked upon as a millionaire has helped along the war romances.

The poor French soldier draws only five cents a day pay, so what chance has he against a competitor who has pockets full of coin—on paydays—for candy and bracelets and wrist watches and pretty laces?

Then again, the American soldier hasn't been any too modest in describing the wonders of America to the little French girls he is courting.

Why, in America, everybody has his own automobile, almost everybody lives in a separate house that sits in a big lot with trees and flowers; in many of the states the women vote and hold office; every woman has a new wardrobe every season; the men earn the living; the skyscrapers grow to be 50 stories high in the big cities; every home has a bathtub in it; about the only thing girls eat in America are bon bons and ice cream, etc., etc.

That's the line of dope "our boys" hand out over here and, naturally, the girls fall for it.

Of course, there's the difference in language, but that has been more of an advantage than a handicap in soldier love making.

About the first thing the American boy learned to say in French was "Je vous aime," "I love you,"

AMERICANS ALL RIGHT

Washington, March 9.—One of Ambassador Francis' telegrams from Vologda dated March 5, and received today says all Americans there are well and tells for the first time that one of the attaches of the embassy was left behind in Petrograd. The ambassador did not say who the attaché was.

and it sounded so "cute" coming from a handsome boy who could not even say "Good morning" that the girl, instead of taking offense, generally invited him to come around that evening to meet her mother.

Then followed countless evenings, in the little French parlor, with mother in one corner darning socks, and Antoinette and Billy near the reading table teaching each other their respective languages.

The first marriage between an American soldier and a French girl took place within 10 days after our troops landed in the war zone.

Marie was one of 50 or more village girls who were at the railroad station to watch the Americans unload. She carried a bunch of flowers.

Many an American boy held out his hand for those flowers but didn't get them.

Finally Bob came along—middle western boy, standing full six feet, clean shaven, athletic, and an honest merry twinkle in his eye.

Marie went straight up to Bob and, with a pretty little courtesy, placed the bouquet in his hand.

That was the beginning of a whirlwind courtship that ended a few days later at the altar.

That was nearly eight months ago.

Not long ago Bob wrote his dad back in America to send him half a dozen boxes of the best cigars he could find.

"If it's a boy we're going to name him Pershing Petala," says Bob proudly.

Bob speaks French now and Mrs. Bob is talking English.

And what you think Bob wants to do now?

He's dissatisfied with his job of "top sergeant," and he has applied for an appointment as a "French interpreter" with the American army!

The Huns will never stop fellows who can work that fast," says Bob's Colonel.

SNIPERS BUSY ON AMERICAN FRONT

With The American Army in France, Saturday, March 9.—Some of the Americans in a listening post in front of their line northwest of Toul early this morning discovered an enemy patrol fixing their own wire, and promptly opened fire. The Germans retreated, leaving two of their number hanging on the barbs.

Some hours after daylight a party of five Germans, two infantrymen and three Red Cross workers, emerged from the enemy lines and started for their comrades entangled in the wire. The Americans saw the Red Cross bearers and did not fire on the party, which removed the bodies.

There has been increased sniping activity along the whole of the American front during the last 24 hours. One enemy post gave the Americans special trouble during the night, placing well aimed bullets on certain points of the line. After daylight the post still continued working from shell holes with periscopes. American snipers tried to silence the enemy from their line, but were unsuccessful.

A sniping patrol was then organized by the Americans and went out in broad daylight. The result of this expedition has not been reported. The game of sniping the sniper is still continuing. Reports from various points show that enemy riflemen are endeavoring to pick off American troops.

Today was the warmest in many weeks. The weather was fine and with just enough ground haze to make sniping conditions ideal. All the Americans who were not on duty took advantage of the hot sun to thaw out and to dry their clothes.

During last night and today the Germans dropped phosgene shells on several of the American battery positions and mustard shells in the rear of the line. Three gas alarms were given on the front within a few hours. Owing to the quickness of the Americans in adjusting their gas masks, the shells did no damage. The mustard sticks for many hours to the spot where a shell falls and soldiers nearby experience a stinging sensation in their eyes.

On one end of the American line the enemy laid down a barrage, after having concentrated a rather heavy bombardment. The American artillery put up a

12 PERSONS KILLED BY FALLING WALL

Winchester, Ky., March 9.—12 persons were killed, 10 of whom were children, 23 persons so severely injured it was found necessary to remove them to the Clark county hospital and about 30 others less seriously hurt, here tonight when the walls of a burned building adjoining a moving picture theatre collapsed, crushing in its roof.

Six of the 23 injured taken to the Clark county hospital were thought to be fatally hurt. The majority of these as well as those not so seriously hurt, were children, several hundred of whom were crowded into the moving picture theatre when the crash came.

The wall which collapsed was also used as one wall of the theatre but projected considerably above the roof of the theatre building. When it collapsed a part fell on the theatre's roof. The wall's collapse removed the support from under the roof and it crashed down into the theatre.

The greatest force of the fall was on one section, and it was here that all of the fatalities and serious injuries occurred. A considerable number of persons in other parts of the house, however, were cut and bruised by flying pieces of splintered timber and pieces of stone.

The crash caused a panic in which the hundreds of children and a number of grown people struggled to reach the entrance. Apparently no one was hurt in this rush.

Within a short time hundreds of persons attracted to the scene by the news of the falling wall had been organized into volunteer rescue squads and soon cleared away the wreckage.

Many of the injured were taken to the offices of physicians nearby. Those most seriously hurt were ordered to the hospital.

AIR RAIDS DO NOT EXCITE THE RESIDENTS OF LONDON

London, Feb. 12.—Most residents of London have come to take air raids very coolly. During a German visit, a British three-inch gun, mounted on an automobile truck, took up its position in a fashionable residential district, directly in front of the house of a wealthy banker. The banker stood the racket of the barrage fire for sometime and then walked out in the street and said to an officer in charge of the gun:

"I say, would you mind taking that thing a little farther down the street. We don't like the row and it is fairly shaking our walls."

The young lieutenant was nonplussed for a moment, but recovered in time to flash back a reply. "Look here, do you take this for a blooming hurdy-gurdy?"

SAYS WE TALK TOO MUCH

Daytona, Fla., March 10.—America's reason for entering the war were outlined by Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, in an address here today before the community forum in which he criticized Americans for "talking too much instead of getting to work and winning the war."

"Don't talk about what you are going to do after the war," he said, "but talk about winning it. I believe I am about the only man who has kept silent since President Wilson asked us to at the beginning of the war."

BRILLIANT WORK OF AMERICANS IN GERMAN ATTACKS

Washington, March 9.—German troops in their attack in Lorraine on the night of March 4 twice gained a footing on the American trenches, only to be driven out in fierce fighting. An official dispatch today from France, giving the French view of the encounter, said the Americans showed "a rare quality of courage, self possession and calm bravery which won them the admiration of the neighboring French troops and the hearty congratulations of the French high command."

The Americans engaged were the latest to enter the trenches, going in to train with the French. First news of their presence on the battle line came in the French official statement of March 5th, which told of their brave conduct in repulsing the Germans. Today's dispatch, which gave the first details of the fighting, said:

"After a very heavy artillery preparation, including shells of all calibers, which completely demolished the ground of the sector, a strong attack was made upon the positions occupied by the Americans. A few of the enemy succeeded in penetrating into a trench, but an energetic and severe counter-attack threw them back in confusion.

"Meanwhile, another section succeeded in cutting the barbed wire in front of the positions where the fighting was going on, but they were also quickly dispersed by the precise firing from the rifles and machine guns.

"A third company finally succeeded in stealing their way into the lines and attempting a flanking attack, which was on the point of succeeding. Here, especially, the Americans gave proof of splendid energy and a morale beyond all praise. Almost surrounded, they did not dream for one instant of surrendering, and their efforts to extricate themselves were so determined that they succeeded in displacing the enemy without leaving a single prisoner in his hands.

"The same date, towards 4:30 in the morning, an American patrol of four men and one sergeant encountered an enemy patrol that was cutting the barbed wire, and which was composed of nine men. Giving proof this time of splendid offensive qualities, and without considering their numerical inferiority, the American patrols threw themselves upon their adversaries, and, after a furious combat, succeeded in putting them to flight, bringing back with them two prisoners.

In the attack and in the defense, the American soldiers assumed the brilliant place which they intend to hold among the Allies' armies."

Will Compile Medical History of the War



Maj. R. W. Shufeldt, who served as a junior officer in the Civil war and through the Indian wars on the western frontier, has been placed on the active list of the medical corps of the army at his own request. His work will be to assist in compiling a medical and surgical history of the present war. He has an international reputation already in various lines of scientific research and general literature. Subjects on which he has written include comparative anatomy, photography, biology, art, paleontology and various other branches.