

DAILY AERIAL MAIL SERVICE NOW A FACT

First "Cloud Post" Pilot Lands Safely at Bustleton

NEW YORK FLIGHT TAKES 75 MINUTES

Complete Journey to Washington Made in Less Than Three Hours

OVATION TO AVIATOR

Great Crowd Welcomes Arrival of "Sky Postman" in Philadelphia

Philadelphia today received and dispatched its first mails by airplane carriers.

Daily aerial postal service, linking New York, Philadelphia and Washington, is now an established fact.

A great crowd of cheering spectators, which had assembled at the Bustleton flying field hours before he was due to arrive, gave a welcome to Lieutenant Torey Webb, army aviator.

He piloted the first airplane of the postal service from New York to Philadelphia. He arrived at 1 o'clock, having made the flight from Belmont Field, L. I., in seventy-five minutes.

The mail matter brought by Lieutenant Webb was quickly sorted, and the southbound sacks transferred to another machine.

Seven minutes after Webb had arrived, this machine, piloted by Lieutenant James Egerton, took the air for Washington, where it arrived with its heavy load at 2:50 o'clock.

One mishap marred the beginning of the aerial service, when another machine, piloted by Lieutenant George M. Boyle, and bound from Washington for Philadelphia, was forced to descend at Waldorf, Md., twenty-five miles south of the capital, due to a broken propeller.

The mail matter this machine carried was sent back to Washington by motorcar.

A third machine, waiting here as a relay between Washington and New York in the northbound service, left Bustleton Field at 2:15 o'clock, and arrived at Belmont Field at 3:37 o'clock.

Three minutes later its cargo was on board a train and speeding for the New York Postoffice. This machine was driven by Lieutenant Paul Culver.

Speed was the watchword of the aerial service on its opening day. The planes in service today averaged 100 miles an hour.

Thornton Receives First Pouch To Postmaster Thornton of this city, left the honor of being the first to receive into his hands a mail pouch by air delivery, handed him by Lieutenant Webb as soon as Webb had landed.

"You are paving the way for a new era in mail delivery," the postmaster told the aviator as he accepted the pouch and congratulated the pilot.

E. J. Cattell, city statistician, heading the official reception party as the personal representative of Mayor Smith, welcomed Lieutenant Webb on the city's behalf and gave him a silver wrist watch.

Others prominent in the reception party were H. C. Steinmetz, president of the Aero Club of Pennsylvania; General Walter, commandant of the marine corps at the Philadelphia Navy Yard; James T. Cortelyou, chief postal inspector; Major H. M. Fridley, assistant to quartermaster, U. S. A.; Captain H. H. L. Willoughby, aeronautical engineer; the Rev. George S. Gasner; N. B. Kelly, member of the Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of the Bustleton Improvement Association.

The Bustleton Association sent out by aerial mail today 25,000 printed copies of the service's schedules. One of these went to President Wilson, with the following letter:

Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

KILLED BY FLYING ROCK

Workman Miscalculates Distance to Safety After Starting Blast

Miscalculating the distance from a charge of dynamite to safety, Richard Walsh, of 5222 Tacony street, Westphalia, was struck in the head by a heavy rock and killed instantly today. He was fifty-seven.

Walsh was employed in improving the roadbed on the Reading Railway at Fern Rock. He set off a blast under a large rock.

MIDVALE TO HAVE GUN PLANT HERE

Sixteen-Inch Howitzers and Projectiles to Be Sole Output

U. S. TO FINANCE PLAN

A great plant, to be devoted exclusively to the manufacture of 14 inch howitzers and projectiles, is soon to be built near Philadelphia for the Midvale Steel Company.

According to reports from Washington the Midvale Company will receive a nominal sum of \$1 a year for operating the Government plant. The Government will furnish all the money for buildings and equipment and will pay all running expenses and salaries. The Midvale Company will supply its experts and workmen, and buy necessary materials and supplies.

The construction of the plant is to begin at once, it is believed. This is indicated by the visit of a subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, and representatives which arrived here this afternoon and went to the Midvale plant, at Nicetown for a tour of inspection.

The Midvale Steel Company has been one of the largest producers of heavy ordnance for the War Department for some time, and the decision to erect the plant near here for the Midvale concern is believed to be due to the progress made in completing their first contracts and the convenience of the port of Philadelphia as an overseas shipping station.

The Senate committee, with five representatives of the War Department, continued on Page Two, Column Three

MAYOR TO SUBMIT 6-CENT FARE BILL

Goes to Councils Tomorrow at P. R. T. Board's Request

VARES CALL ON SMITH

An ordinance providing a six-cent trolley fare is to be sent to Councils tomorrow afternoon by Mayor Smith at the request of the directors of the Rapid Transit Company.

The ordinance will probably be unaccompanied by any recommendations from the Mayor or the city's representatives on the board. The directors' meeting today, ratified the six-cent fare proposal.

William Hancock, one of the city's representatives on the board, said this afternoon that neither he nor Mayor Smith had voted at the directors' meeting on the question of submitting such an ordinance to Councils.

Following an all afternoon conference in the Mayor's office, Transit Director Twining, who is said to be strongly opposed to the six-cent fare said he had not yet gone over all the arguments presented by the company for the increase.

He added that the company had not furnished him with complete data to support its demands.

Accompanying the ordinance to be submitted to Councils will be a statement by Thomas E. Mitten, president of the transit company, explaining the uses to which the company expects to put the money that will be realized in the event of the increase.

Hardly had the transit experts left the conference in Mayor Smith's office when Congressman Vares and Senator Vares called upon the Mayor.

The visit of the Vares following a day of transit conferences, was considered significant.

Opposition Crops Up Opposition to the proposal on behalf of the city was made by Mr. Hancock, who, with Mayor Smith and Colonel Sheldon Porter, constitutes the city's representatives on the P. R. T. board. He took the stand that the issue imperils the pending lease of the city's high-speed

Continued on Page Seven, Column Four

AUSTRIANS FIRE ON SUPPLY DEPOT NEAR HARRISBURG

Three Enemy Aliens Captured by Soldiers After Brief Struggle

Harrisburg, May 15.—Three Austrians today hid behind a screen of bushes and fired upon the United States aviation supply depot at Middletown, a few miles east of this city. Soldiers made a detour and approaching from the rear seized them.

The Austrians are said to have been employed at the Bethlehem Steel Company plant. Sergeant Lewis Melvin, of the aviation force, first tried to approach them, but many shots were fired. When he and other soldiers surprised the Austrians from the rear there was a brief struggle and the enemy aliens were quickly overpowered. They were armed with revolvers.

The Austrians gave the names of Frank Goritch, Zuperich Marko and Frank Mahala. They live in Steelton.

TO EVACUATE ALAND ISLANDS

German Troops Will Withdraw to Mainland May 23

Stockholm, May 15.—The Germans will evacuate the Aland Islands on May 23, it was announced today. Swedish forces will be withdrawn at the same time.

The islands, which were lost to Russia by Sweden in 1809, have a population of more than 25,000, most of which is Swedish. Several months ago Swedish military forces were landed there because of atrocities committed against the inhabitants by Russian soldiers. Some time later the Germans also landed a force on the islands.

It is probable that the islands will become part of the republic of Finland.

RUSSIAN ROYALTY IMPRISONED

Dowager Empress and Grand Dukes Held by Germans

Zarich, May 15.—Official confirmation was received in Berlin this afternoon that the Russian Dowager Empress Maria and the Russian Grand Dukes Nicholas, Nikolaitch, Peter, Nikolaitch and Alexander Michailovskiy have been imprisoned by the Germans in Crimea.

Continued on Page Seven, Column Two

WILSON HOTLY RESENTS WAR INQUIRY PLANS

Sees Lack of Confidence in Chamberlain Resolution

GIVES COMMITTEE UNDUPE POWERS

Tells Senate Leader Project Is Contrary to Best Interests of Army

PROTEST NOT HEADED

By Vote of 3 to 2 Committee Approves Plan—Fight on Floor Assured

Washington, May 15.—By a vote of 3 to 2 the Senate Committee on Audit and Control decided to recommend adoption of the Chamberlain resolution with an amendment confining the Military Affairs Committee investigation to the nation's military activities and specifically excluding inquiry into the general conduct of the war.

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger

Washington, May 15.—President Wilson has written a letter to Senator Martin, Democratic leader of the upper house, opposing the Chamberlain resolution extending the authority of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate.

Continued on Page Seven, Column Two

BASEBALL SCORES

CLEVELAND 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 ATHLETICS 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0

PHILLIES 0 0 0 3 0 0 1 CHICAGO 0 2 0 0 0 0

AMERICAN LEAGUE ST. LOUIS 0 0 0 2 0 0 NEW YORK 2 0 0 0 0 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE BROOKLYN 0 0 0 2 0 1 PITTSBURGH 0 1 0 0 0 0

OTHER GAMES COST ACCOTG 0 0 0 0 2 0 PENN 0 0 0 0 0 0

USAACS 2 1 5 0 0 0 LAFAYETTE 1 1 0 0 0 2

TOMESCHOOL 1 0 1 0 HAVERF'D SCH'L 0 0 3 0

WEST PHILA H 6 0 2 0 0 SOUTH PHILA 0 0 0 0 0

ADDITIONAL RACING RESULTS Third Pimlico race, 1 mile, 60 yards—N. K. Real, 108, Corey, \$31.40, \$13.30, \$7.10, won; Captain Ray, 104, Rowan, \$18.20, \$9.50, second; Tie Pin, 108, Walls, \$3.60, third. Time, 1:46 4-5

TURCO-FINN PEACE TREATY SIGNED AMSTERDAM, May 15.—A Turco-Finnish peace treaty was signed Saturday in Berlin, according to a dispatch from Constantinople today.

HOOVER ASKS \$7,000,000 FOR OFFICE RENTALS WASHINGTON, May 15.—To meet the expenses—rentals and the like—of volunteer county and city food administrators, Herbert Hoover today asked the House Appropriations Committee for \$7,000,000. The sum is vital if the work is to continue, he declared. In Europe, he added, similar work entails annual appropriations of \$48,000,000.

BALFOUR DENIES TEUTONS LANDED IN MONROVIA LONDON, May 15.—Foreign Secretary Balfour declared in the House of Commons this afternoon that the German submarine which shelled the wireless station at Monrovia, on the west coast of Africa, April 10, had landed its crew and looted the bank is untrue.

ENGINEERS AFFILIATE WITH LABOR FEDERATION CLEVELAND, O., May 15.—Members of the Brotherhood of the Locomotive Engineers in convention here today voted to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor.

RUSSIA WILL DISARM BLACK SEA FLEET MOSCOW, May 15.—Foreign Minister Tchitcherin today sent a wireless to Berlin declaring Russia proposed to disarm the Black Sea fleet in an effort to propitiate Germany.

Methodists Elect Three Bishops Atlanta, Ga., May 15.—Election of three new bishops featured the session for the quadrennial session of the Southern Methodist Conference here. The new bishops are the Rev. W. N. Answorth, Savannah, Ga.; the Rev. E. M. Dubois, Nashville, Tenn.; and the Rev. Franklin N. Parker, of New Orleans.

Reading Church Elects Rector Reading, Pa., May 15.—The Rev. William E. Wood, of New Milford, Pa., has been elected rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev. Brynton Byron, who accepted a call as assistant of one of the largest Episcopal parishes in Detroit.

FIRST AIRPLANE MAIL CARRIER IN AMERICA LANDS AT BUSTLETON



Lieutenant Torey Webb, Uncle Sam's first "flying postman," leaped from his plane at Bustleton at 1 o'clock this afternoon, thereby signifying the successful beginning of the new aero mail service. Lieutenant Webb brought mail from New York.

MAURICE REPLIES TO LOYD GEORGE

General, in Open Statement, Backs Up His Charges

NOW CHRONICLE EXPERT

By MAJ. GEN. SIR F. B. MAURICE Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

The editor of the Daily Chronicle has asked me to become his military correspondent and I have accepted his offer. The Daily Chronicle has given me a deep sense of gravity of the step I took because I conceived it to be my duty.

I was not, as has been stated, a disgruntled soldier turned out of his job. I had been promised and was about to take up important employment in France, which of all things I most desired, and I think I may say without vanity that I had a promising career before me. That is all behind me, and I have left the service I love. I have therefore made a very real sacrifice—I hope not in vain.

I do not intend to indulge in any recriminations. My sole object will be to help my readers to get on with the war. If in future I have occasion to be critical, my criticism will be constructive.

I appealed to Parliament to order an inquiry into the statements I had made. I failed in my appeal, and my case has not been heard. The explanations referred to in the official notice of my retirement had reference only to a breach of discipline, to which I, of course, pleaded guilty. I have paid the penalty for that breach of discipline, which with very deep regret I felt myself bound to commit, and there is nothing more to be said.

Continued on Page Five, Column Three

INDIANS SCORE IN FIFTH INNING

Kopp and Geary Quit Athletics to Work at Shipyard in Wilmington

LEAVE CLUB TONIGHT

By JAMES S. CAROLAN

Shibe Park, May 15.—For four innings Myers held the Cleveland club in the first game of the series this afternoon, but in the fifth the visitors counted once. Chapman was safe when Burns took his foot off the bag. In the sixth inning Myers grounded when Shannon fumbled Speaker's grounder.

Coveleski, who opposed Myers, was in excellent form. Bob Geary, pitcher, and Merlin Kopp, outfielder, of the Athletics, received word that they had been placed in class I A of the draft and would be inducted into the service at an early date. Acting upon this information they immediately made arrangements to take up mechanical work at the shipbuilding plant of the Harlan & Hollinsworth Company, Wilmington, Del. Kopp played his last game this afternoon. Both players will report for duty tomorrow.

Joe Jackson and a number of minor league baseball players are in the employ of the Harlan & Hollinsworth Company.

FIRST INNING Davidson threw out Graney. Chapman doubled down the left field foul line. Speaker sacrificed. Gardner to Burns. Both walked. Both stole second. Wambly popped to Gardner. No runs, one hit, no errors. Jamieson flied to Roth. Kopp walked. Walker doubled to left. Kopp stopping at third. Burns popped to Chapman. Wambly threw out Gardner. No runs, one hit, no errors.

Continued on Page Thirteen, Column One

APPOINTS HUGHES BRITISH SHELLS SHATTER ENEMY

Havoc Created Among German Forces by Heavy Shell Fire

RAIN DELAYS ATTACK

By PHILIP GIBBS

President Wilson today called upon former Justice Charles E. Hughes to act as a co-investigator in the probe of Gutzon Borglum's charges against the aircraft production board. Hughes accepted the call.

The President's letter to Hughes follows: "My dear Judge Hughes—You have doubtless noticed that very serious charges of dishonesty have been made in connection with the production of aircraft. Because of the capital importance of this branch of the military service I feel that these charges should be thoroughly investigated and with as little delay as possible, in order that the guilty, if there be any such, may be promptly and vigorously prosecuted, and that the reputation of those whose actions have been attacked may be protected in case the charges are groundless."

"I requested the Justice Department to use every instrumentality at its disposal to investigate the charges and with the approval of the attorney general I am asking today that you will act with him in making this investigation. I feel that this is a matter of the very greatest importance, and I sincerely hope that you will feel that it is possible to contribute your very valuable service in studying the question involved."

"Cordially and sincerely yours," "WOODROW WILSON."

Hughes Accepts Post Here is Justice Hughes' reply: "My Dear Mr. President: I beg to acknowledge your letter of May 13. Appreciating fully the gravity of the matter, I shall be glad to co-operate with the Attorney General in making a prompt and thorough investigation of the charges of dishonesty in connection with the aircraft production."

RECALLS FORMER BATTLES

I stared at old Monchy on the hill and remembered the day a year ago when the British cavalry went up there under heavy shrapnel fire, and when the men had hard fighting for that ruined village on the heights. There were a few woolly bears in

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FRENCH GAIN GROUND UP PICARDY LINE

Win Wood Near Hailles, American Fighting Zone

BRITISH REPULSE NIGHT RAID AT L...

Big Enemy Drive Delayed But Allies Are Expectant and Ready

GUNS HERALD B L O

Indications at Front Are Early Resumption of Grand Offensive

Germans Would Take Calais by May

Cable to the Evening Public Ledger The Hague, May 15.—I can state on excellent authority that the German date for the occupation of Calais was recently Whitsunday (May 19).

This date was given so definitely that in certain circles it is still maintained that an attempt must be made this week. "For the Germans must at least attempt to redeem this promise."

Paris, May 15.—French troops have captured wood just south of Hailles, on the Picardy battle front, the French Office announced today. German counter-attacks were repulsed.

There was violent artillery firing during the night in the region of Montdidier.

The text of the communique following: "There was violent artillery firing during the night around Montdidier and Noyon."

The French attacked the wood south of Hailles and captured it.

German counter-attacks morning failed. All were repulsed. We captured seventy prisoners.

Another attempt launched against the enemy south of Hailles (Picardy) after a lively bombardment, was completely repulsed.

North of Chemin-des-Dames (Aisne River front) we repulsed a coup de main against one of our small posts in the sector of H.boveille.

(Hailles is about eight miles south east of Amiens. American troops are holding part of the front east of Montdidier, where artillery activity is reported.)

London, May 15.—Continued heavy artillery action both in Belgium and France was reported in Field Marshal Haig's communique to the War Office today. During the night, he reported, artillery fire was heavy in the Somme and Ancre and north around Bethune. This morning firing became heavy at Morlaix and Kemmel.

The Germans attempted to break the British lines, during the night north of Lens, but were repulsed. Haig's troops carried out another successful raid north of Bethune. The text of the official statement follows:

A raid attempted by the enemy in the nighttime north of Lens was repulsed.

We carried out another successful raid north of Bethune. Hostile artillery was active the night time in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre and north of Bethune in the Nieppe forest sector.

This morning the enemy's artillery activity increased south of Montancourt and north of Kemmel.

General Offensive Seen Large scale operations continue along the Flanders-Picardy front. They are of a magnitude which other wars would have been of tremendous importance, although classed as "local operations," the resumption of fighting along the lines in France and Belgium, accompanied by a bombardment, is apparently increasing in intensity. Great German thrust has not assumed in force, but there are indications that the enemy will lay his attack much longer.

Field Marshal Haig's report today stresses the general character of the bombardment and subsequent prediction of military