

## WORK BEGINS ON VAST FLEET OF ENEMY BLINDERS

Air Fighting Plan Calls for Huge Planes for an Army of 110,000.

BY HENRY M. HYDE.  
Washington, D. C., July 24.—[Special.]—Vast airships, each driven by three 700 horse power engines, capable of carrying a military load of more than four tons, 8,500 pounds, and with a maximum speed of 100 miles an hour! A navy of such great battleships of the air, surrounded and protected by a swarm of even swifter and much smaller battle planes!

If not the biggest and most important, certainly the most spectacular of all the present war plans of the United States are built around such a vision. With the signing today by President Wilson of the bill appropriating \$400,000,000 for building, equipping, and manning an enormous navy of the air, these plans took a big step toward realization.

**Tests Being Made in Italy.**  
Huge triplanes of the power, speed, and weight carrying capacity described have been built and now are being tested in Italy. Triplanes of the same type, considerably smaller than the new giants but still of great size and power, now are in actual use in Italy.

The Italian triplane, driven by 900 horsepower Caproni engines, for instance, will take a military load of more than three tons to a height of 6,500 feet in thirty-five minutes. Unloaded, it makes the same climb in twenty-seven minutes, and with a weight of two tons it will rise to 10,000 feet in less than an hour.

**Defeat of U-Boats Seen.**  
The fact that these great machines cost \$40,000 or more each will not prevent their being built in large numbers in the United States, once the necessary jigs, dies, and special tools are completed from the models furnished by the Italian government.

Many experts see in the creation of a fleet of such big airships, together with five or six times as many small fighting planes for their protection, the only certain method of defeating the submarine peril, of destroying munition plants and military and naval bases, and of swiftly driving the German army back behind the Rhine.

Imagine the destruction which could be wrought by a hundred airships sailing over Essen, for instance, and each dropping two tons of high explosives on the Krupp shops.

"The program for which this vast appropriation has just been made," Howard E. Coffin, chairman of the aircraft production board, said today, "must be carried out with a promptness equal to that of Congress in passing the bill. Whatever crimes may later be laid at our doors, that of slowness in accomplishing must not be one of them. We are ready to go ahead at once."

**Airplane Samples Coming.**  
Within two weeks, went on Mr. Coffin, "samples of many 'planes now used by our allies on the European battle fronts will be on exhibition in the temporary building erected for the purpose at the rear of the Smithsonian institution. There they may be examined and studied by the manufacturers of the United States."

In the matter of aircraft, as in other military matters, the difficulty of thinking nationally. Every step will be taken after conference and in full cooperation with our allies.

"We are in daily conference with representatives of the British, French, and Italian flying corps here in Washington, and a decision practically has been reached as to the exact part to be played by each of the allies in winning the war in the air."

"Our factories, of course, will have the advantage of copying the best and best types of aeroplane engines devised in France, Italy, and England. Nor have our own inventors and designers been idle during the past three years. There now are engines of entirely American design, and in many respects weigh only two pounds to the horsepower."

**Three Training Fields Ready.**  
"Whatever may be the difficulty of turning out immediately in the United States the swift and delicate fighting planes of the latest type, we already are manufacturing in large numbers planes which are fitted for the training of air pilots and observers."

"Three of the twenty-four big aviation fields which we shall build for training our new air army already are completed, and the work of instruction is under way."

"The public, generally, has small idea of the immensity of these great training camps for birdmen. Camp Wright, for instance, located near Dayton, O., home of the immortal inventor of the heavier-than-air flying machine, covers a tract of land measuring two miles by four miles. Its hangars stretch unbroken for a distance of two miles. These buildings will house 144 biplanes for the use of the embryo aviators. The United States will be the great training camp for aviators for all the allied armies."

**Aviation Army of 110,000.**  
One may get a faint idea of the almost incredible expansion which is proposed in the air branch of the military and naval arm of the United States forces by considering that while now there are only a few more than fifty commissioned officers in the aviation section of the signal corps of the army, it is proposed to increase it to a total of 110,000 officers and men. That is more than the total strength of the United States army until it recently was enlarged. Even now the authorized strength of the regular army is but 75,000 more than that of the aviation section alone.

It would be a miracle if, under the direction of a board dominated by civilians who are not aviation experts, the vast sum of \$400,000,000 should be expended in an emergency effort to create a vast air fleet without great if honest waste, and errors of judgment which will result in sensational charges and investigations.

Howard E. Coffin, chairman of the aircraft production board, is supported by a committee consisting of Brig. Gen. George C. Squier, chief signal officer of the army; Rear Admiral David W. Taylor, chief of the navy; S. D. Walden, former vice president of the Packard automobile company; E. A. Deeds of the engineering laboratories, Dayton, O., and R.

## "CAP" STREETER WELCOMES THE ARMY

Battling Squatter on "Deestric of Lake Michigan" Agrees Amicably to Let Second Artillery Camp There and Declares the Kaiser "Ain't No Good, Nohow."



"Cap" George Wellington Streeter welcomed the Second Illinois artillery to the old "Deestric of Lake Michigan" yesterday. Col. Milton J. Foreman's regiment, formerly the First Illinois cavalry, will go into camp on the old Streeter battlefield at 7 o'clock this morning. The soldiers spent a busy afternoon pitching tents in the region bordering the lake between Chicago avenue and Superior street.

When "Cap" Streeter saw the artillerymen invade his land he stepped out of his cabin door and took a long squint at them. "Well, I'll be damned," he soliloquized. "I wonder what their fairers is up to now. I guess maybe they allow they're going to oust me and take possession."

In his shirt sleeves and with his stove pipe hat tilted at a belligerent angle, the captain, accompanied by his fox terrier, strolled over to investigate. "What are you fellers doing on my property?" he asked.

"Well, captain," said a top sergeant, "we're just going to camp here for a while and get ourselves in shape to help lick the Kaiser."

"O," said the captain with evident relief, "that's all right. I thought maybe you soldiers had been sent to take possession of the deestric, and if that was the case, I'd fight the hull derned lot of you. This land belongs to me by right of discovery and an army couldn't take it away from me. But if you're just going to camp here for a while, I ain't got no objections. You soldiers are perfectly welcome to Streeterville. I'm fer Uncle Sam, first, last, and all the time, you bet yer life. And as fer that derned Kaiser, if he ever sets foot in the deestric I'll shoot him on sight. He ain't no good, nohow."

L. Montgomery, a banker of Philadelphia.

Cooperating with Mr. Coffin are three leading business men and experts in various lines of engineering and power production.

All these men doubtless will do their full duty up to the limit of their capacity. They have undertaken a patriotic and almost impossible task, which none but brave men would attempt.

## "DEFENSE" TALK ON WEST SIDE DOESN'T JIBE

At a meeting in West Side auditorium last night, arranged by the American Liberty Defense league, the first speaker, William Nathanson, explained that the organization was not fighting conscription. The next speaker, Jack Kearney, told "why we are fighting conscription."

Nathanson explained the painful position of vegetarians who refrain from eating meat because of not wishing animals to be killed and who would find themselves firing on an opposing army.

Kearney urged every one to become a "conscientious objector."

Every reference to the possibility of exemption was cheered by the audience. There were no American flags in the hall.

## FLYERS SILENCE BIG ENEMY GUN

CANADIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, July 24.—The firing of German shells weighing nearly three-quarters of a ton, that were dropping twenty miles back of the front, was quickly silenced Sunday by bombs dropped by Canadian aviators, who discovered the monster gun's position after an air raid over the enemy lines.

By their vigilant work the Canadian aviators are saving towns and villages far behind the front from bombardment with shells, one of which is capable of demolishing a house to powder.

A German airplane activity completely failed to stop our reconnaissance, photographic, and artillery work, in spite of all the enemy's efforts," last night's official statement says.

## Allied Control of Affairs in Greece Now Abandoned

Washington, D. C., July 24.—The allied control of Greece's internal situation has been formally abandoned, according to an Athens cable to the Greek legation here today.

Call Out Illinois Troops.  
Bloomington, Ill., July 24.—[Special.]—Bloomington and McLean county company of the new Tenth regiment of the Illinois National guard was mustered into service tonight by Major J. H. Lewman of Danville. One hundred men took the oath and will mobilize at Springfield the last of the week.

## U. S. TO FOLLOW FRENCH SYSTEM, BAKER CONFIRMS

Divisions of 17,000 Men, as Told in 'Tribune,' Under Plan.

[BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]  
Washington, D. C., July 24.—[Special.]—The disclosure by THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE today that there is a sweeping reorganization of the American army on the French plan of conformation, as recommended by Gen. Pershing, was confirmed by Secretary of War Baker today.

Details of the plan are withheld awaiting an official report of the army war college. It was announced, however, that the new army plan will be modeled on the French system, with larger companies, larger regiments, and smaller divisions.

T. R. as Major General.  
One result will be to give the New York National guard a second division and pave the way for the appointment by Gen. Whitman of Col. Roosevelt as a major general.

No additional general officers will be given to the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, which also have divisions, as their present national guard strength is not far above the total strength of the division under the French system.

In brief, the war department plan calls for changing the strength of a company from 150 to 250 men, changing a regiment from 1,800 to 3,000 men, and reducing the strength of a division from 28,500 to approximately 17,000 men.

Under the present table of organization there are sixteen divisions of the national guard, sixteen divisions of the regular army, and ten divisions of the regular army.

Increase of Divisions.  
Under the new organizational strength there will be approximately twenty-eight national guard divisions, thirty national army divisions, and eighteen regular army divisions.

Secretary Baker said after the troops are drafted Aug. 5 and become fully equipped the president will have the right to make his own appointment of general officers.

## CHILE AND PERU CABINETS QUIT; WAR IS CAUSE?

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 24.—The cabinet has resigned. No reason for the action is given.

Peruvian Cabinet Also Quits.  
LIMA, Peru, July 24.—The Peruvian cabinet resigned today. The ministers, however, will remain at their posts until July 27, pending the formation of a new ministry.

## TRAINING CAMP OFFICER QUOTA REDUCED BY 186

BY PARKE BROWN.  
Fort Sheridan, Ill., July 24.—[Special.]—Two less regiments of infantry than had been understood until today will be offered by students of the reserve officers' training camp.

Each company in training here is expected to officer a regiment and to all appearances there are ten infantry companies in the Illinois contingent and ten more in the Michigan-Wisconsin unit. But it has been learned that appearances are deceiving. There are only nine companies in each.

To the students in camp the discovery means that there will be exactly 186 less line commissions open to them. This figure is based on the latest war department orders concerning the officers needed for each regiment of the new draft army.

In the first place, there will be forty-eight, or three less than the full quota for each regiment—the three being reserved for officers transferred from the regular army. And now definite word has been received that the "additional" officers required for each new regiment will be forty-five second lieutenants.

Their services are required for the instruction of the new army because of its total lack of noncommissioned officers—corporals and sergeants. So the total required for each regiment of infantry is ninety-three officers.

Definite word also is said to have been received that only 120 of the 280 approved applicants for provisional lieutenancies in the regular army, whose names were published Monday morning, will be commissioned.

## EVANSTON DRAFT QUOTA UNFAIR, COUNCIL VIEW

Evans' council is "up in arms" and residents are indignant because of the alleged failure of the government to allow full credit to their city for the 710 men furnished the country as volunteers before the draft went into effect.

The announcement was received from Adjt. Gen. Dickson that Evans' quota is to be 304 men, with no mention of credit for the volunteers. The matter will be taken up with the adjutant general by Justice Orrin N. Carter of the state supreme court, a member of the Evanson war council.

Evanson decided it had not been given justice when a comparison was made with Danville, with a population about equal to that of Evanson.

Evanson furnished 710 volunteers, and is now asked for 304 additional men under the draft. Danville furnished 810 volunteers and is given a credit of sixty-six men on the second draft call, with none asked for the first.

## DRAFT TO REND CANADA, LAURIER WARNS COMMONS

Bill Passes by Vote on Racial Lines, English vs. French.

Ottawa, Ont., July 24.—The conscription bill passed the house of commons today by a majority of 54. It now goes to the senate where its speedy enactment into law is assured by the presence of a substantial majority supporting the government.

The majority today upon the third reading in the commons was nine below that given when the principle of conscription was adopted on second reading. This was due to absence of a number of conscriptionists.

There was no practical change in the lineup. English speaking Conservative members voted solidly for the bill and twenty-two of the English speaking Liberal supporters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier broke away and voted for the government measure. The remainder of Sir Wilfrid's followers voted with him against conscription and they were joined by five French members who were elected to support the government.

The vote for conscription was almost entirely English and the vote against it was largely French.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said it was a new thing for a question to divide both political parties at one time. This question had estranged dear friends from him whose loss he regretted.

It was admitted that conscription would be defeated if submitted to the people, but the government was prepared to carry the measure by its parliamentary majority and apply it to the country by coercion. The country was facing a cleavage which, "if not checked, might rend and tear Canada to the very roots," it was declared.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that from the bottom of his heart he wished the reining of Canada would allow the sending of not merely a half million but a million men, but it was a question of how many men could be taken from the nation without imperiling the industrial and agricultural industries.

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## 8,000 CHICAGO GUARDSMEN IN CAMP TODAY

Mobilization Day Finds Some Regiments Prepared.

National guard regiments throughout Illinois will mobilize for war service today in response to the president's order. The regiments will assemble at their armories and await orders for movement to the training camp at Houston, Tex. It is not known whether the regiments will be concentrated at Springfield before being sent south.

The 8,000 jobs left vacant in Chicago may open the way for the first appearance of women in positions vacated by soldiers.

**Strength of Regiments.**  
The regiments, not counting the First and Fifth infantry and First artillery, mobilized some time ago, are:

	Officers, strength.	Total
Second infantry.....	56	1,244
Seventh infantry.....	56	1,542
Eighth infantry.....	50	2,307
Second artillery.....	48	1,436
First engineers.....	31	959
Field hospitals—		
No. 1.....	6	80
No. 2.....	6	80
No. 3.....	6	80
No. 4.....	6	80
Four ambulance companies ..	300	
Signal company.....	3	75
Totals.....	268	8,233

Many of the regiments have their equipment ready for shipment. In this number is the Second artillery, formerly the First cavalry, commanded by Col. Milton J. Foreman. Every member of the regiment will report at 7 o'clock this morning at the camp in Streeterville at the foot of Chicago avenue.

**Seventh to Assemble at Noon.**  
Fourteen hundred members of the Seventh infantry assembled at night in their armory at Wentworth avenue and West Thirty-fourth street. After drill the men were instructed to assemble again at noon today. The regiment lacks 400 men of war strength.

On Monday 600 men subject to the draft decided to volunteer, but only 200 passed the physical examination. Thirty more were accepted yesterday of 80 who applied.

**Some Already on Duty.**  
The First artillery has already mobilized at Fort Sheridan, the First infantry at Cicero, and the Fifth infantry (downsized) on guard duty in various parts of the state. The Eighth is reported as considerably over war strength.

Confusion prevailed in some quarters because of misunderstanding of the mobilization points of the various regiments. The office of the adjutant general was without advice from Washington as to the movement of the troops, but these are expected at any minute.

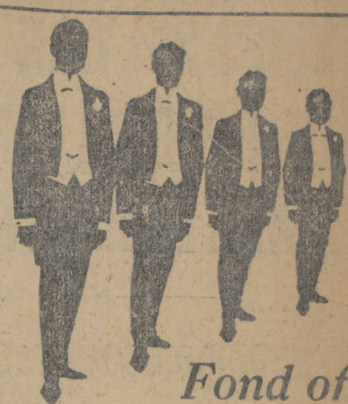
"They may go south about Aug. 5," said Adjt. Gen. Dickson, "but all is conjecture now."

Regiments and companies in communities surrounding Chicago are in readiness. Four companies of the Third infantry at Aurora spent the night at the armory.

**COMEDY'S 258TH NIGHT TO HAVE 258S AS GUESTS**

The management of "Turn to the Right," playing at Cohan's Grand, was attracted last Saturday morning to THE TRIBUNE's pictorial display of the fifty-six young men representing the 258th, the first to be drawn in the draft.

Further to commemorate this famous number, next Tuesday evening, which marks the two hundred and fifty-eighth performance in Chicago of this comedy, the management has designated, "258 night," and sent invitations to each young man holding that draft number.



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