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MAJORITY OF U. S. TROOPS BACK BY MID-SUMMER.

Regulars Will Remain Longer—Eight National Army and Guard Divisions Near Rhine—Gen. Dickman in Command.

Washington, D. C., December 7th.—Eight of the thirteen divisions comprising the American Third Army, now approaching the Rhine, either are National Guard or National Army troops, and there is every reason to believe that they will be on American soil again by mid-summer.

General March, chief of staff, announced today he anticipated no difficulty in getting these units home within four months after peace has been established formally by proclamation. President Wilson, in his recent address to Congress, said the sessions of the conference probably would be concluded by spring and based on this estimate of the time, General March's statement was accepted to mean that these forces would return during the summer.

Two National Guard divisions, the Thirty-Second and Forty-Second, and two of the National Army, the Eighty-Ninth and Ninetieth, now are in the front line of Major General Dickman's Army of occupation which was within twenty miles of the Rhine last night, according to General Pershing's report. The Twenty-Eighth and Thirty-Third National Guard and the Seventy-Ninth National Army are in the second line, constituting the reserve which is occupying Luxembourg and various railroad centers in France, including Montmedy, Longuyon, Etain and St. Mihiel. The First, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Regulars comprise the remainder of the advancing Army, while the Second and Seventh divisions are with the reserve.

ALL BACK BY MID-SUMMER.
The estimate as to the possibility that all except regular divisions will have been withdrawn from France by mid-summer is based on General March's reply to a question as to steps necessary to obtain an extension of the enlistment period for men in the Army of occupation.

"The law about the men who were raised in the National Army is that they must be discharged four months after the declaration of peace," he said. "That, I think, also was extended to include men who made voluntary enlistments in the regular Army. I won't have any difficulty in bringing back from France the so-called National Army divisions in four months after the declaration of peace. It is entirely possible that we will have to ask Congress for some modifications of the law to provide a longer period for the units which will remain in Europe."

A total of five thousand and three hundred and fifteen men, General March said, have been specifically assigned for early return by General Pershing. Included in the additional units reported to-day are one thousand, four hundred and twenty-six officers and twenty-nine thousand, three hundred and eighty-one men, the largest organizations mentioned being the field artillery brigades of the Eighth (Regular) and Ninety-Second (National Army—negro) divisions and the Three Hundred and Forty-Fifth Infantry regiments from the Eighty-Seventh (National Army) division. The remainder of the list consists largely of auxiliary divisional troops.

LARGEST UNIT YET.

The Three Hundred and Forty-Sixth Infantry is numerically the largest unit yet ordered home, showing seventy-seven officers and three thousand, one hundred and eighty-two men.

Discussing demobilization of the Forces at home, General March said College men other than those in officer's schools which were being abandoned would receive no preference as to the time of their discharge.

The order of demobilization providing that combat divisions be disbanded last, he said, has not been altered. "The system is working at a very much greater speed," General March said, referring to demobilization, "and I have initiated a system by which I get a daily record as to officers and a weekly record as to enlisted men. The actual number of officers discharged at the time of the last announcement was one hundred and thirteen; the number discharged last week, up to yesterday, was seven thousand, six hundred and fifty-eight. The number of men last week was over two hundred thousand."

The historic society of Cincinnati, oldest of the American patriotic organizations, was founded by officers of the continental forces and of the French army and fleet which aided us in gaining our independence at the close of the revolutionary war, 135 years ago. Washington was its first president-general, Hamilton the second and on its original rolls appear the names of many others who gained fame for their services in the cause of liberty. Its membership, composed of the eldest male descendants of these officers, now numbers about 1000; besides which President Wilson, ex-President Roosevelt and Taft, and several other distinguished American-French citizens are honorary members.

An officer of the Japanese navy, after having discovered a process which makes paper waterproof, has invented a collapsible lifeboat made of the material, which can be folded up and weighs but a few pounds.

How President Wilson Spent Sunday on Ship.

"President Wilson attended religious services this morning with the enlisted men of the American Forces on Board the George Washington," says Sunday's Wireless to the Associated Press. The service is described as follows: "The services were held in the quarters of the men some distance below decks. The President joined in the singing and the prayers and in the recital of the services."

Later the President took his usual walk on deck and then rested. He did not work during the day. The George Washington is running through smoother seas and encountering warmer weather."

U. S. BATTALION IS SENT TO OCCUPY CITY OF COBLENZ

This Premature Occupation is Due to Request of Germans—Main American Army Continues Its Advance in Germany in the Usual Manner.

(By the Associated Press.) American Army of Occupation, December 8th.—A battalion of the Thirty-Ninth Infantry left Treves by train today for Coblenz, a four hours' run. The premature occupation of Coblenz is due to the request of the German authorities, who are apprehensive of the conditions that might prevail there after the withdrawal of the German forces.

This is the first time the Americans have utilized railway trains for their advance into the territory from which the Germans have withdrawn. It was not expected that there would be any trouble at Coblenz and the appeal by the burgomaster to send troops was denied until it was supplemented in writing by the retiring military commanders.

The main army continues its advance in the usual manner and last night had reached the general line of Geldorfau, Mayen, Koenig and Schwarzen. All reports continued to indicate that the Germans were withdrawing in an orderly manner and that the inhabitants of the villages occupied by the Americans were refraining from any antagonistic acts. American troops have been marching all day in the general direction of Coblenz. They have been received everywhere with the usual resigned attitude by the people. The women seem to feel their position more keenly than the men. There are many averted faces as the troops pass.

The Americans are working in cooperation with the burgomaster of Treves. Inquiry by the Americans reveals there are sufficient food supplies in the territory occupied, only the quality is poor. The Treves Landes Zeitung devoted a four line item to the entry of the American troops in its last issue.

General Pershing's communique for yesterday said:

"Section A—The third American Army, continuing its advance into Germany to-day reached the general line Ruppenthal-Boos-Kempernich-Maven-Greimersburg - Simmern-Kellenbach.

"Section B—There is nothing to report in this section."

BRITAIN DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK CITY.

Messages From King George and Premier Lloyd George Read at Meeting in Hippodrome.

On Sunday, December 8th, New York City celebrated Britain Day, at a meeting in the Hippodrome arranged as the climax of the celebration messages were read from King George and Premier Lloyd George.

The King's message, read by Alton B. Parker, who presided, stated that "the people of the British Empire join with me in thanking you and those associated with you for your efforts in promoting this celebration which will be welcomed as a proof of the true and lasting friendship of the United States."

"It will be a particular satisfaction to my navy and army to feel that they have won the esteem of the Nation which has sent so many gallant men to suffer with them the trials of this great war and to share in the glories of final victory," continued the message. "In the name of the British Empire, I thank the people of the United States of America and I pray that the coming era of peace may find our two Nations always united as they are to-day."

A message from Premier Lloyd George read:

"I am always delighted with any work which helps to make our two Nations understand one another better. We shall never forget the prompt and decisive response of the American President and people to the Allied call this spring, and the invaluable part played by the American navy in helping to free the sea from the German pests."

Messages from Foreign Minister Balfour, Field Marshal Haig, Admirals Beatty and Jellicoe, Premier Clemenceau of France and Ambassador Jusserand were also read to the audience, which included navy officers of high rank. Besides addresses by Sir Henry Babington Smith, acting British High Commissioner; Mr. Parker, Charles E. Hughes, Samuel Gompers, and Doctor George E. Vincent, head of the Rockefeller Foundation, the programme included a tableau portraying the sinking of the British warship Vindictive in the harbor at Zeebrugge.

PRESIDENT WILSON ISSUES RED CROSS PROCLAMATION

Made Public Sunday—The Proclamation Asks All to Enroll During Christmas Roll Call Week and Help in Work Ahead.

Washington, D. C., December 8th.—President Wilson, in a proclamation, made public to-day, calls on every American to join the American Red Cross Christmas roll-call week December 16th to December 23rd, "and thus send forth to the whole human family the Christmas greeting for which it works and for which it stands in greatest need. The proclamation, prepared by the President before he departed for Europe, follows:

The White House, "Washington, Nov. 26, 1918. "To the American People:

"One year ago twenty-two million Americans, by enrolling as members of the Red Cross at Christmas time, sent to the men who were fighting our battles overseas a stimulating message of cheer and good-will. They made it clear that our people were of their own free choice united with their Government in a determination not only to wage war with the instruments of destruction, but also by every means in their power to repair the ravages of the invader and sustain and renew the spirit of the Army and of the homes which they represented. The friends of the American Red Cross in Italy, Belgium and France have told, and will tell again, the story of how the Red Cross workers restored morale in the hospitals, in the camps, and at the cantonments, and we ought to be very proud that we have been permitted to be of service to those whose sufferings and whose glory are the heritage of humanity.

"Now, by God's Grace, the Red Cross Christmas message of 1918 is to be a message of peace as well as a message of good-will. But peace does not mean that we can fold our hands. It means further sacrifice. Our membership must hold together and be increased for the great tasks to come. We must prove conclusively to an attentive world that America is permanently aroused to the needs of the new era, our old indifference gone forever.

"The exact nature of the future service of the Red Cross will depend upon the programme of the associated Governments, but there is immediate need to-day for every heartening word and for every helpful service. We must not forget that our soldiers and our sailors are still under orders and still have duties to perform of the highest consequence and that the Red Cross Christmas membership means a great deal to them. The people of the saddened lands, moreover, returning home to-day where they have no home must have the assurance that the hearts of our people are with them in the dark and doubtful days ahead. Let us, so far as we can, help them back to faith in mercy and in future happiness.

"As President of the Red Cross, conscious in this great hour of value of such a message from the American people, I should be glad if every American would join the Red Cross for 1919, and thus send forth to the whole human family the Christmas greeting for which it waits and for which it stands in greatest need. (Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

At the Strand Today, D. W. Griffith's "The Great Love."

JOE HUDSON, COLORED, ROBBED OF \$140 BY CONFIDENCE MEN.

Waited Too Long to Give the Alarm—Swindlers Pull Off Same Stunt in Charlotte Where they are Captured—Chief Christenbury Will Bring Them Here For Trial.

Some time ago Joe Hudson, a Union county negro, was robbed of \$140 on the streets of Monroe by a "confidence" man. Joe had sold a bale of cotton and went into the Bank of Union to get his check cashed. In the bank a well dressed negro accosted him civilly and inquired if money wasn't rather plentiful. Joe left for this negro at once and they left the bank together. As they stepped from the building another well dressed negro came from around the corner and stooping, picked something from the sidewalk. "Did you see that nigger find that pocket-book?" said the one who had accosted Joe in the bank. He then proposed that they should make him divide its contents with him. This the other negro readily agreed to do, but he required that they follow him to the outskirts of town for the division.

Arriving at the outskirts of town, he announced that the pocketbook he had found contained \$1100 but the initials of the man who had dropped it were on the bills. He said that it would take \$140 to get the money changed for other money that did not have identification marks upon it, and that if Joe would let him have the money he would go up town, get it changed, and come back and then divide it equally among the three. Joe at once handed over the money he had just received for his cotton. The two other negroes then left together.

Hours went by and they did not return. Night began to come on before Joe realized that he had been swindled. He then came to town and reported the matter to the police, but he had waited too long and the well-dressed negroes with his money had made their get-away before he reported it to the police.

Saturday, in Charlotte another negro was swindled in the same manner, but he did not wait so long to report it and the two negroes who had fleeced him were captured. An account of their capture appeared in the Charlotte papers Sunday and it was at once apparent to Chief Christenbury that they were the same negroes who had robbed Joe Hudson. Securing Hudson he went to Charlotte yesterday where the latter at once identified them as the negroes who had swindled him. The swindlers were given a hearing in police court in Charlotte yesterday morning and bound over to Superior Court in bond of \$300 each. Failing to raise this amount, they were remanded to jail. Chief Christenbury at once had warrants issued charging them with swindling, and should they succeed in raising the required bond they will at once be arrested and brought here for trial. However, if they cannot raise this bond and remain in the Mecklenburg jail until court, when they will no doubt get a long sentence on the roads, upon the expiration of this sentence they will be brought here for trial.

Messrs. Oscar and James Hill of Monroe township have received honorable discharges from the army and have returned home from Camp Jackson.

Crown Prince Renounces Right to Throne.

Crown Prince Frederick William has renounced his right to the German throne. A despatch received in Basel from the semi-official Wolff Bureau quotes the Crown Prince in renouncing the throne as having said:

"I renounce formally and definitely all rights to the crown of Prussia and the imperial crown, which would have fallen to me by the renunciation of the Emperor-King or for other reasons.

"Given by my authority and signed by my hand. Done at Wieringen, December, 1st, 1918."

The Prussian Government has formally withdrawn the privilege heretofore held by the members of the Hohenzollern family of immunity from law.

Prince Adalbert, third son of the former German Emperor, has joined the present government, according to a Berlin despatch to the Express. He is now at Potsdam, it is said.

LOST BOY FOUND IN MONROE

The Son of a Prominent Salisbury Family Who Ran Away From School Several Months Ago Located Through the Efforts of Mr. T. L. Crowell.

In the city of Salisbury today there is a beautiful woman, who, after weeks of worry and anxiety concerning the whereabouts of her son, is happy. Her wandering boy has been returned to her through the efforts of a Monroe man, Mr. T. L. Crowell.

More than a month ago there appeared in Monroe a young man about seventeen-years-old. He was a well-appearing young fellow of good countenance. He applied at the Sikes Company for a position or rather a job. It was here that he met Mr. Crowell. The Sikes Company did not have anything for him to do but Mr. Crowell succeeded in securing him a job elsewhere. Becoming interested in the boy he enquired as to where he was from. The boy replied that he was from Lynchburg, Virginia, but he had formerly worked at Salisbury. The Monroe man then named one of his friends in that city and enquired if the boy knew him. He said that he did and at one time was a school-mate of this friend's daughter.

Later a letter was addressed to the Salisbury friend asking if he knew a young man by the name of— A few hours after this letter was received in Salisbury there came a long distance telephone call wanting a description of the boy. This was given and coincided with that of a member of a prominent family of Salisbury who had run away from school several months ago. The mother of this boy had suffered nervous prostration from worrying over her son. The Salisbury man instructed Mr. Crowell to keep his eye on the lad and see that did not start out on fresh wanderings, stating that his mother would be down on the next train.

This Mr. Crowell did and when the six o'clock train came in from Charlotte Friday the boy's mother was a passenger, and a few minutes later held her son in her arms. At sight of his mother the boy relented and the next train for Salisbury carried two happy passengers.

SOLDIERS CLASH WITH SPARTACUS GROUP IN BERLIN

Dozen or More Persons Killed Including Several Girls—Newspaper Plant Stormed—Probably Fifty Wounded.

Saturday's Associated Press from Berlin tells the following story of the chaos existing in the city:

The clash between government troops and following of the Spartacus or radical group, resulted in from twelve to sixteen persons being killed, according to various reports. The number of wounded is not expected to exceed fifty. Several girls who were passengers on a street car were among those killed.

It appears that the audience from one of the three meetings of deserters from the army was marching northward in Chaussee Strasse to join the audience from a meeting held in a hall further north. The fusilier guards were drawn up at the intersection of Invaliden Strasse and the commander warned the people to disperse. The marchers were crying: "Forward. The soldiers won't shoot their comrades!" The marchers tried to pierce the lines, whereupon the order to fire was given. Besides the wounded, several were badly hurt, rushing through broken show windows seeking cover.

A group of soldiers stormed the editorial rooms of Karl Liebknecht's newspaper and attempted to destroy the plant. Frustrated in their raid on the newspaper office by government orders, the soldiers then attempted to arrest the members of the executive committee of the soldiers' and workmen's council, the soldiers apparently laboring under the misapprehension that their officer had been ordered by the government to make the arrest.

The faculty of law of the university of Athens has decided to confer the honorary degree of doctor of laws on President Wilson.

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CLEMENCEAU WILL PROBABLY HEAD FRENCH DELEGATION

Marshal Foch Will Be One of the Premiers Collaborators Censorship of Press Removed in France. (By The Associated Press.)

Paris, December 8.—Premier Clemenceau may act as president of the French delegation to the peace conference. It is reported that the presence of President Wilson as head of the American delegation has led to this decision on the part of the French Premier. It is said that he may select as his collaborators Captain Andre Tardieu, head of the general commission for Franco-American war matters and high commissioner to the United States, Jules Cambon, General Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Ambassador to the United States, Marshal Foch, and the French Ministers of the Navy and Labor, Georges Leygues and M. Collard, respectively.

For a time the French newspapers were not permitted to forecast the composition of the French delegation but this restriction seems now to have been withdrawn. Recently the names of former Premier Leon Bourgeois and Aristide Briand have been mentioned in connection with the conference and some of the paper have taken them under consideration as suitable delegates.

MANY PLANTS IN FRANCE ARE COMPLETELY RUINED

Workers are More Plentiful Than the Jobs—Problem Unlike That of America. (By Edward M. Thierry.)

Paris.—Readjustment of labor after demobilization looms as the biggest after-the-war question in France.

A committee of members of the French chamber of deputies has officially asked the government what steps toward labor reconstruction are to be taken.

Appointment of a commission to study the question has just been announced.

Labor readjustment is a subject of greater importance in France than outside of Belgium perhaps—because so many factories and commercial enterprises have been destroyed by the war.

When the soldiers are demobilized a great number will not be able to return to the work in which they were engaged before the war. Their workshops have been wiped out. Many others who have been employed on war work in munition plants will be thrown out of employment. For such concerns will have to shut down while they adapt themselves, many of them slowly, to a peace-time line of manufacture.

MORE WORKMEN THAN JOBS

Another class of men, who have been away at the front four years, will find no place open because they have been replaced by other labor—women, in numerous cases. The government faces the problem of having more men on its hands than it has jobs. A quick solution is imperative, according to the view of prominent labor leaders.

"Every other country except France has thought about this matter," said M. Emmanuel Brousse, a French deputy and a member of the newly appointed labor readjustment commission.

"Britain has been working on the labor question for a long time. Twenty-five commissions composed of specialists in various lines have prepared a solution.

"Germany had its after-war program definitely mapped out. First the men who in civil life were engaged in such occupations as technical, commercial, industrial, financial and transport were to be freed from army service. Other kinds of workmen were to be demobilized successively. "France must not lose a moment in mapping out its labor readjustment plan. Otherwise there will be a social catastrophe."

Labor leaders in France point also to the preparations in America for distributing farming land to demobilized soldiers. But they remark that the ex-soldier to do is closed to the French. France has not vast unoccupied lands as the United States has, except in the northern African colonies. All of France is cultivated intensively, leaving none for reclamation by demobilized soldiers. And it is calculated that few will want to leave their own country for the purpose of colonization.

G. H. Roberts, British minister of labor, recently discussed this subject before an audience of British soldiers at the British Army and Navy League club in Paris.

The British minister said temporary unemployment difficulties of demobilized soldiers would be met by a free out-of-work donation covering a period of 12 months after discharge. This will be additional to the month's furlough given each man on his discharge, during which time pay and allowances are to be continued.

The skilled workmen among British soldiers, Roberts said, is safeguarded by the munitions of war act, giving him the assurance of reinstatement in employment. Committees, he said, would establish employment agencies in all cities and everything possible would be done to make labor resettlement as speedy and smooth as possible.

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Join

Make this a Red Cross Christmas

The happiest, merriest Christmas the world ever knew is almost here. But in the rejoicings of peace and freedom there is one note of seriousness, that America must not forget—there is misery and distress and sickness in war-torn Europe. Relief must be given. The work of the Red Cross MUST go on. And to carry on, the Red Cross MUST have the support of your membership.

Join the Red Cross
—all you need is a heart and a dollar

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