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KAISER SEEKS TO ESCAPE HIS PUNISHMENT

Copenhagen, Saturday, Nov. 30.—(By Associated Press.)—Further revelations showing that former Emperor William of Germany is seeking to escape responsibility for bringing on the war are contained in an article by Dr. George Wegener, appearing in the Cologne Gazette, recounting a conversation which the writer had with the emperor just before he fled. In this interview the emperor attempted to shift the blame for the world conflict to the shoulders of Dr. Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg, former imperial chancellor, and Go'tlieb von Jagow, former minister of foreign affairs.

"Against my will they sent me to Norway," William is quoted as having said. "I did not wish to undertake the voyage because of the gravity of the situation after the murder of Archduke Ferdinand was clear at first sight. But the chancellor said to me:

"Your majesty must take this voyage in order to maintain peace. If your majesty remains here, it undoubtedly means war, and the world will lay to your charge responsibility for this war."

"Well, then I undertook the voyage. During all this time I received no reports from my government concerning current events. Strictly speaking, I only learned from Norwegian newspapers of what was occurring in the world, and in this way I learned of the Russian mobilization measures.

"But when I heard that the British fleet had put to sea, I returned of my own accord. They had nearly caught me. On my orders, German ships returned at once to the security of Norwegian harbors. Later it would not have been possible for them to do so."

The emperor then mentioned declarations of General W. A. Soukhomlinoff, Russian minister of war, during the investigation which occurred afterwards, which he later altered the statement that he had not ordered real mobilization, but only readiness for mobilization. The emperor, however, insisted on the correctness of the first declaration, according to which the czar had been induced by the kaiser to recall his order for mobilization. He declared that General Nicholas Januschewitch, chief of the Russian imperial staff, deceived the czar and the order was carried out in spite of him. This mobilization, the kaiser would have it, was the final reason for the war.

"The Russian war party at the court," the kaiser continued, "had already in the spring of 1914, compelled the czar to make preparations for war. From that time Siberian regiments were gradually drawn westward. They were told that maneuvers were the resolution for these movements and thus they marched on to the Volga river and further westward until they reached Vilna, where they were suddenly handed out loaded cartridges and told that they were now going to fight in earnest.

"In fact," said the kaiser in ending the interview, "Russian troops were already over our frontier before war was declared."

FOCH AND CLEMENCEAU IN LONDON.

London, Dec. 1.—An overpowering demonstration greeted the arrival of Marshall Foch and Premier Clemenceau in London this afternoon. The crowds were as dense as London ever has seen.

The crowds shouted, sang and roared, the bands played and bells rang. Many thousand of troops lined the route of the journey from Charing Cross station to Claridge hotel.

Both Foch and Clemenceau manifestly were deeply moved. It was the most spontaneous and striking outburst of popular appreciation of gratitude towards the noble Frenchmen.

13,950 AMERICAN TROOPS ENROUTE FROM LIVERPOOL

Washington, Dec. 1.—Notice was received by the war department today of the sailing from Liverpool on November 29 of the steamer Ascanius, for New York, with 47 officers and 1,427 men, and the steamer Canopic for Boston with 54 officers and 1,067 men. All on both steamers are aero units except a few casuals and units of attached officers.

On the Ascanius are the 349th, 475th, 476, 326th, 371st, 378th, 841st, 335th, 173rd, and 832 aero squadrons; five officers and 15 men, medical detachment casuals, and six unattached officers.

On the Canopic are the First Handley Page acceptance park; the 211th, 828th and 306th aero squadrons; a detachment of the second Handley Page acceptance park; three officers and 12 men, medical casuals, and 14 unattached officers.

This makes a total of 13,590 officers and men now enroute home from England, representing nearly two-thirds of the total number of American troops in that country when the armistice was signed. The remainder are to return home on several steamers leaving Liverpool this week and next week.

The Canopic is the first ship to sail from England for Boston, the other five being enroute for New York.

FLAMES RUIN PLANT OF RICHMUND NEWS-LEADER

Richmond, Va., Nov. 30.—Three persons were severely burned when the News-Leader plant was destroyed by fire at 5:40 this afternoon. Damage to the newspaper plant and the building was estimated at \$250,000. Those injured are: Reuben Scher, foreman of mailing room; W. B. Ladd and Welford W. Ladd, press room employes. Scher and the Ladd brothers were badly burned and were rushed to the hospital.

The fire is reported to have started in the mailing room, where the young men were working, and their injuries were sustained during their efforts to extinguish the blaze there.

Officials of the News-Leader estimated that the loss to the plant would amount to approximately \$125,000, the fire destroying much new equipment which had but recently been installed.

The fire was discovered a few minutes before 6 o'clock, just after the greater number of employes had left the building. A general alarm was turned in immediately, but before sufficient water was available, the flames had leaped from the basement up through the elevator shaft to the third floor, and the entire structure was a fire.

AMERICAN TROOPS UNDER PERSHING CROSSED BORDER

With the American Army of Occupation, Dec. 1.—(By Associated Press.)—American troops crossed the frontier into Prussia at daylight behind the German rear guards. Treves is the most important city thus far occupied.

General Pershing is in the immediate vicinity to observe the operations. His advance headquarters will be established at Treves, where Gen. Preston Brown will be military governor and Gen. Harry A. Smith in charge of civil affairs.

The advance today averaged 12 miles.

Treves is situated on the right bank of the Moselle river, 57 miles southwest of Coblenz. It is perhaps the oldest town in Germany and is rich in Roman relics. Among the main objects of interest in the town are the cathedral, which is one of the oldest in Germany, and the provincial museum, with a fine collection of antiquities.



1—King and queen of Belgium being welcomed in the public square of Bruges by the burgo-master of the city. 2—"Hosted on" at Camp Dix; a scene that is being repeated at all the great army camps. 3—Col. Theodore Belmont, head of the French educational commission that is in America as guest of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



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THE "STANDING ARMY" MAY BE 500,000 MEN

Washington, Dec. 2.—A regular army of approximately half a million men is provided for specifically in estimates submitted to Congress today for the fiscal year 1920, beginning next July 1. Detailed items on the pay of the army show that in the total of \$1,922,000,000 asked for, exclusive of the fortification estimates, provision is made for the payment of only 21,259 officers and 382,667 men of the line and approximately 130,000 non-combatant troops with the requisite staff officers.

The inclusion in the estimates, however, of five items of pay with a nominal appropriation of \$100 each asked, shows that the whole question of the strength of the army after the conclusion of peace has been deferred and that supplemental estimates are to be expected under these headings when it is possible to present a completed project. The items thus held in suspension are those providing for the pay of reserve and national guard officers and men.

The naval estimates are framed on an exactly opposite theory. Every provision is made for steady and rapid increase of the fleet, a total of approximately \$434,000,000 being asked.

For Growing Navy.

The total appropriation for the naval establishment is estimated at \$2,444,000,000, or an increase of approximately a billion dollars over appropriations for the current year. For the marine corps \$155,286,000 is asked.

Just what reduction in naval estimates were made following the signing of the armistice with Germany which ended hostilities, is not disclosed. So far as the army is concerned, however, General March has stated that more than sixteen billion dollars was lopped off of the original nineteen billion dollar war budget for the year, bringing the new total, including fortifications, down to less than \$3,000,000,000.

The army estimates show that the specific provision made is for the regular establishment only as at present authorized and raised to its maximum war strength. This is the force contemplated in the regular army re-organization made in the national defense act of 1916, which also federalized the national guard.

For Air Service.

The most striking equipment appropriation of the army budget is for the air service. Under aircraft production a lump sum estimate of approximately \$145,000,000 is submitted, supplemented by an additional \$20,000,000 for the air service itself.

Of the air service estimate \$11,400,000 is set aside for aviation equipment and \$5,235,000 for a maintenance of plans and stations and establishment of new ones.

MOB AT ESCH WRECKS HUN BUSINESSES

With the American Army of Occupation, Dec. 1.—(By Associated Press.)—Four American soldiers dispersed a mob of thousands at Esch after it had wrecked 28 shops in revenge for the overcharging of Americans. The loss is estimated at between 4,000,000 and 7,000,000 francs.

The trouble began when a soldier was charged two francs for a cake of chocolate and the same for an apple. The Luxemburgers, who long have protested against high prices, resented the overcharge of their "deliverers." They entered the shop, destroying its contents.

Some one raised the cry to wipe out all German establishments and the mob soon grew to thousands, who began systematic destructions.

A department store owned by a Hollander was wrecked and he reported the loss to his government. He was the only foreigner, other than Germans, whose property was attacked.

The anti-German spirit was superseeded by ordinary mob enthusiasm and the destruction finally was extended to the shops of Luxemburgers themselves.

The American lieutenants who arrived while the campaign of destruction was at its height called upon four enlisted men to arm themselves with broken boards and disperse the crowd. The soldiers shouted to the excited men and women to go to their homes and they dispersed quickly, accepting the command without question.

INSISTS THAT KAISER SHOULD BE PUNISHED

London, Saturday, Nov. 30.—(British Wireless Service.)—Discussing plans for bringing to justice former Emperor William, of Germany, The Times asserts that "if we had to single one culprit for punishment, he would be the person."

The paper adds that the argument that he cannot be punished because there are others who also are guilty cannot be admitted. "By that argument," The Times continues, "a felon caught in the act would escape punishment because there are other felons who have not yet been brought to judgment, and neither law nor common sense would listen to such a plea.

"Besides, it is proposed to punish the kaiser alone. There are others, too, who will be placed on trial, but he is the chief because most highly criminal.

"The one argument against doing what we can to bring this arch criminal to justice is that at present he is a mean and contemptible figure, hiding his head from the ruin he brought on his country, and that if we prosecute him we may somewhat impart dignity to him.

MAURETANA TO DOCK AT HOBOKEN, N. J.

New York, Dec. 1.—The British steamship Mauretania, returning to the United States with the first large body of American overseas troops, anchored in Gravesend bay at 7:40 o'clock tonight. She was met by navy and army tugs. She will probably remain at her anchorage until early tomorrow morning, when she is expected to dock at Hoboken.

The navy tug, it was reported, had been ordered to meet the Mauretania to bring ashore Admiral Henry T. Mayo, commander of the Atlantic fleet, who was returning from England as a passenger. The army tug, it was said, had orders to bring ashore an army officer of high rank.

Aboard the Mauretania, as announced recently by General March, chief of staff, are several thousand members of the air service, who were stationed in England. The ship also carries a number of casuals. The soldiers will be taken directly to demobilization camps for physical examination. Barracks at Camp Mills have been prepared for their reception.

Late today, Mayor John F. Hylan, telegraphed Secretary asking that troops aboard the Mauretania be permitted to parade up Fifth avenue tomorrow. Permission also was asked to give a dinner tomorrow night in honor of returning officers.

New Yorkers Meet Them.

The mayor's committee of welcome made a trip down the bay tonight on the flagship of the police department fleet and circled the Mauretania. Members of the party were not at first allowed aboard the transients and so they used megaphone and wireless apparatus to convey the greetings of New York to the returned soldiers, but later a gang plank was shoved out and the civilians scrambled aboard.

As the police boat's searchlight played on the Mauretania's decks, men and officers could be seen crowding to the rail, as they shouted greetings in return. Back across the water in reply to the welcome, soon came such queries as "When do we eat?" and "Has the state gone dry?" When members of the party accepted an invitation to come aboard, they were deluged with requests to "phone mother and let her know I'm here" to "mail this letter to my girl" and to perform similar services.

According to those on the Mauretania, the ship had a rough crossing. Four storms were encountered and at one time the sea ran so high that the clerical force at work in the cabin had to quit when their typewriters were hurled to the floor. The ship was commanded by Captain A. H. Rostron, of the British navy, who was in command of the Carpathia when that vessel picked up victims of

ORDERS ISSUED DEMOBILIZATION 649,000 TROOPS

Washington, Nov. 30.—Four divisions in their entirety and major units of eight other divisions of the American army in France have been designated by General Pershing for an early return home. These troops with other special units, General March, chief of staff, announced today, total 3,451 officers and 79,663 men.

The complete divisions which will return at an early date, General March said, are the 39th, 76th, 87th, and 92nd. Important elements of the following divisions to return as soon as transportation facilities are available are the 31st, 34th, 38th, 40th, 34th, 85th, 86th, and 88th.

New figures on the American army casualties, announced by the chief of staff, which exceeds that made public a week ago by 28,000 covers all losses to November 26. The principal change in the revised list is the addition of 13,100 men missing in action.

Demobilize 649,000 Men.

General Pershing, it was said, has thus far forwarded no explanation of the increase under this heading and it was assumed that an error occurred in the transmission of the previous figures. General March explained that the revised figures on prisoners could not be despatched in General Pershing's message.

The special units to embark soon consist largely of coast artillery brigades and separate regiments, many battalions and batteries of anti-aircraft artillery and other organizations including aero squadrons.

Orders have been issued, the chief of staff also said, for the demobilization of 649,000 men in the camps and cantonments in the United States. Approximately 46,000 officers and men in the home camps have already been discharged.

By the end of December, General March indicated, probably 150,000 to 175,000 members of the expeditionary forces will have returned to this country. He said the war department hoped in time to provide transportation for 300,000 men a month.

GERMAN TROOPS NOW OUT OF BELGIUM; THE BELGIANS ARE FREE

British Headquarters, Nov. 29.—The German troops are now all out of Belgium. Belgium is at last free, many towns to the east of Namur are placarded with signs of welcome in the English language, a characteristic compliment. Great numbers of abandoned German vehicles, especially heavy lorries, are along the roads with all movable parts taken away and the vehicles rendered useless which may be remembered in connection with German complaints that the demands of the armistice upon their transportation facilities threatened the food supply of the people.

The endless flow of civilians on the roads continues, but the saddest sight is the returning prisoners. The unhappiest people I saw were a party of Germans consisting of an officer and a dozen troopers riding on a street in Namur under a white flag on an official errand, every man visibly white with fear. It was a needless fear for there is no dirtier falsehood of the German high command than that in which they tried to fix the recent excesses committed by German soldiers upon the civilian population.

the Titanic disaster in 1912.

There were rousing cheers when Admiral Mayo left the Mauretania and boarded the naval tug awaiting him. Among his fellow passengers on the trip from England were Harry Luder, the comedian, who sang for the soldiers during the voyage home and Major Ian Hay, of the British army.

THE PRESIDENT'S SHIP WILL BE WELL GUARDED

New York, Nov. 30.—The American transport George Washington, selected by President Wilson to convey to Europe himself and other members of the American delegation to the peace conference will be convoyed by the battleship Pennsylvania and a fleet of five fast destroyers. The George Washington is lying tonight at her pier in Hoboken ready to sail on her history-making trip at a moment's notice.

To Rear Admiral Albert Greaves, commander of the cruiser and transport force of the Atlantic fleet, fell the honor of providing for the Presidential ship. Captain Edward McCauley, United States navy, commands the George Washington, and the crew has been drawn entirely from the navy. The escorting battleship is commanded by Captain Lewis Nulton.

The George Washington, a vessel of 25,570 gross tons, was formerly one of the crack liners of the North German-Lloyd. The George Washington was the only large German vessel seized by the United States the name of which was not changed.

Safeguarding the movement of a large percentage of American troops to Europe has been the task of Admiral Greaves during the war. He was commander of the protecting fleet of warships that escorted the first contingent of the American expeditionary forces, and President Wilson recently designated him for promotion to the rank of vice-admiral.

The exact time of the departure of the George Washington is not yet known, but today the engines of the big liner were given a last testing out. The ship is lying convenient to a spur track over which the President's train will arrive.

London, Nov. 29.—The Times devotes four columns to events and speeches of the American Thanksgiving day celebrations. Balfour, Curzon and Lord Ranksborough representing the king attended the official American service at St. Martin's at which General Bidde and Captain Twining, U. S. N., read the lesson. Another impressive service was held in the Roman Catholic cathedral in Westminster. Lord Reading and Premier Borden, of Canada, were the principal speakers at the American banquet in the evening.

Lord Reading and James M. Beck were the principal speakers at the Pilgrims luncheon at which the Duke of Connaught presided. Mr. Beck made a notably epic speech. Sir Eric Gaddes entertained the American officers at night and particularly referred to their cooperation in the submarine campaign.

The American football game, the army versus the navy, was minutely described, the game being novel to English football players. Notable celebrations were held in Bristol, Liverpool, Queenstown, and Southampton, through which 400,000 American troops have passed, and also in Winchester, where there is another American rest camp through which 500,000 men have passed. Thanksgiving day probably will become a permanent British as well as American festival.

REMEMBER

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Shopping Days Until Christmas. So Shop Early