

AMERICAN ARMY EAGER TO RETURN

Fighting Over, Doughboys Are Only Anxious to Get Back Home

PET GERMAN CHILDREN

Soldiers Make Comrades of Little Ones, but Must Shun Adults

By EDWIN L. JAMES
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Now, it is like sitting in the bleachers on a rainy afternoon when the name is over. If the people back home want to know what is happening with the American army of occupation, the answer is "nothing."

When one thinks about it seriously one wonders if the important fact about the American's sojourn along the Rhine is not that nothing happens. The first irritation of the inhabitants over our presence is vanished and the people hereabout are about as cordial as the army rules will let them be.

Regulations Never Issued
Two sets of regulations have been drafted for the control of the German population. They got even beyond the printer, but were never issued.

The French and British and Belgians are rather more strict, but also are more indulgent than are the Americans, and that is but natural.

This fondness of the American soldier for children impresses itself upon all who see him. The French remark upon it here and there, but in general they only shrug their shoulders.

The doughboy when he sees a German child thinks of a little brother or sister or son or daughter back home.

With the American Army of Occupation, Dec. 24.—(By A. P.)—General John J. Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American forces, slept in a castle on the east bank of the Rhine Saturday night as the Fourth Corps and General Hines, corps commander, with headquarters at Neuwied.

General Pershing crossed the Rhine in an automobile at 10:25 o'clock Saturday night over a pontoon bridge. Coblenz, after having entertained the newspaper correspondents at dinner in his private train, this morning he was joined at Neuwied by Major General Dickman and Hines, visited the three division headquarters within the bridgehead and other points of interest on the western side of the Rhine.

On his way to Coblenz Saturday General Pershing was a luncheon guest of Major General Muir, commander of the Fourth Corps. In a castle on the Moselle overlooking the town of Cochem. The castle, which is owned by a major who is still in the German army, was commandeered by the Fourth Corps headquarters. It stands on the summit of a great bluff rising above the Moselle and Coblenz and commands a view for miles around.

Ex-Czar Got Three Hours to Prepare for Execution

Nicholas Soon Shot After Conviction—Wife and Son Quickly Followed—Abdication Document Dated 1905 Found

By CARL W. ACKERMAN
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Ekaterinburg, Dec. 2 (via Vladivostok).
The following is a continuation of the manuscript of the late ex-Czar of Russia's major donor, Parfety Alexeevitch Dominov, in which the latter writes on what happened during the last few hours the former Czar was permitted to spend with his family before being taken away by the Red Guards.

"In view of this evidence, together with the commission statement issued by the decision of the Trial District Soviet to execute Nicholas Romanoff, the former Czar, was ordered to be taken to the place of execution without delay because the Soviet considered it harmful and unjustifiable to continue to keep him under guard.

"After this Nicholas called me and kissed me, saying: 'I don't know what to say, but I shall soon be laid to rest.'

"I asked for a Christmas sale, Alice repeated the Czar several times in a very low tone, making the sign of the cross over his wife and son.

"When the military police came they took an ambulance and refitted it for a police patrol. It was in this ambulance that the Black Maria was seen in the Kremlin as on a Sunday afternoon in 1900.

"The Germans are behaving well. This is, perhaps, the best thing that has happened since the end of the war.

"I did not say anything about it. As he turned away I saw he had two wound stripes. 'Maybe it wasn't right and maybe it was,' he said.

"And what do you think the little son of a gun wanted?—a rifle.

"I did not say anything about it. As he turned away I saw he had two wound stripes. 'Maybe it wasn't right and maybe it was,' he said.

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FATE OF COLONIES IN ENGLISH HANDS

French Indifferent to Future of German Lands, Says Statesman

RESTORATION UNLIKELY

Military Prudence and Wishes of British Colonies Forbid Return, He Declares

By CHARLES A. SELDEN
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Dec. 24.
In the course of a conversation on 'Peace-Conference problems' a French statesman surprised me by saying that France was not particularly interested in the question of the German colonies.

"That is a matter," he said, "which the French consider as exclusively British, and we are prepared to agree unquestionably to any conclusion Great Britain reaches."

"I asked him if he meant that ill-ill-ill-ill to the extent of agreeing to the restoration of part of the colonies, should England so decide.

"Yes, we would agree to anything," he replied, "but there is no danger of the British consenting to their restoration."

"There is three sufficient reasons for not restoring the colonies. The first concerns the naval activity of future wars. There is no question in French opinion that the submarine will be the chief naval machine of the future.

"I asked him if he meant that ill-ill-ill-ill to the extent of agreeing to the restoration of part of the colonies, should England so decide.

"Yes, we would agree to anything," he replied, "but there is no danger of the British consenting to their restoration."

CITE 185 BRAVE AMERICANS

Marines Prominent Among Troops Honored in France

HONORED BELGIAN

SKIPPER IN PORT Captain Sytor Given Cup by British for Rescuing Fifty-six U-Boat Victims

Captain C. J. Sytor, of the Belgian tank steamship Kasbek, is now in port from Liverpool. In the latter city the skipper was presented with a silver cup by the British Government for rescuing fifty-six members of the crew of the British steamship Clan MacNab, which had been torpedoed by a German submarine.

The Kasbek, which trades regularly between Philadelphia and European ports, and the Clan MacNab, on August 18, 1917, were under way with an escort of two torpedo boat destroyers, when without warning the Clan MacNab was torpedoed and sunk within three minutes.

The cup, which bore the following inscription, presented by the British Government to Captain C. J. Sytor, master of the Belgian steamship Kasbek, of Antwerp, for gallantry and good seamanship displayed in the rescue from the British steamship Clan MacNab, of Glasgow, August 4, 1917, was presented by H. H. Miller, of the Belgian War Risk Commission.

Severely Injured by Camden Trolley Harry Mills, an employee of the Tidewater Building Company, now established at 14th and Chestnut streets, Camden, was struck by a trolley car at the corner of Fifth and Federal streets on Monday night, suffering severe injuries. He is lying unconscious at the Cooper Hospital.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA has been most fortunate in engaging the following artists: FLORENCE HENKLE, Soprano; Marie Akov, Contralto; Henri Scott, Bass; Walter Pontius, Tenor. And the Philadelphia Orchestra for their production of

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WILSON MAY WIN ON SEA FREEDOM

British Expected to Understand Him Better After His Visit

AGREEMENT IS NEEDED

All Nations Must Submit to Proper Laws and Rules of the Ocean

By CHARLES H. GRASTY
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Dec. 24.
In connection with President Wilson's visit to England there is much discussion here of the freedom of the seas. It is remarked that, while the President is not expected to take up matters of policy with the British statesmen, his contact with the people will have a profound influence on the subsequent proceedings in Paris.

One of the subjects which closer relations resulting from his contact with the British public will tend to remove from the field of controversy is the one mentioned. The British have been more apprehensive on this than any other point, and when the President's fourteen points were accepted as a whole, exception was taken to that clause.

It is believed, however, that on closer examination the objection will disappear. Great Britain's need of the largest navy, owing to her insular position and her need for communication with her colonies, is recognized. The President's doctrine of the freedom of the seas is understood to mean that Great Britain may not maintain the largest navy, and at the same time be the exclusive interpreter of sea laws.

Theoretically, this may mean everything or nothing; but the important thing is the sense in which the doctrine is being put forward in the Peace Conference. There must be an agreement among the nations regarding the laws and rules of the sea, to which all will submit. This would give Great Britain the commercial and other advantages desired without making her sea supremacy a military menace.

It has been contended in England that if the freedom of the seas, as thus interpreted, had prevailed, and if the British navy had not employed the blockade, Germany would not have been beaten. This is probably true; but Germany has been beaten, and it is argued in some quarters that it is better not to start afresh on the basis that a wrong can be justified because it leads to a good end. It is pointed out that Germany might seek to justify her use of submarines by similar logic. It is asserted that her objections to the freedom of the seas as thus interpreted would in nowise hamper England in looking after her world-wide interests, and that it will disappear with frank discussion.

If the program of a league of nations should be realized, the question of the freedom of the seas would no longer exist. The seas would be open and free in time of peace and war alike. If the league of nations were attacked, however, all laws would be in abeyance, and the league would defend the world order, of which it would be the trustee and guardian.

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Will He Come?

To the majority of children in Philadelphia there is no question of the arrival of Santa Claus. He comes every year, laden with gifts and goodies.

But to at least 20,000 little ones St. Nick is almost a myth. Some years he arrives, but most times he passes by—and Christmas in the poorer homes means only a day of heartache and longing.

Will he come to all this year? The answer is in your hands, for some candy or toys—or the money to purchase these—sent to the Ledger Santa Claus Club will insure a Merry Christmas for a number of little ones. More, it will insure a Merry Christmas for you!

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A. E. F. HAD 450 AIRPLANES

Only 102 American-Made Machines on Front November 11

By EDWIN L. JAMES
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Coblenz, Dec. 24.—On the last day of fighting the American expeditionary force could have put into the air a total of 450 to 460 airplanes of all kinds.

King Will Visit Wilson
Montenegrin Ruler Indorses President's Plan for World League

Paris, Dec. 24.—(By A. P.)—King Nicholas of Montenegro intends to visit President Wilson as soon as possible. The king has been suffering from an attack of the grip and today for the first time since he was stricken he was able to stroll along Bois de Boulogne.

Sinn Fein Scores Victory Easily Elects Prof. John MacNeill to Parliament

EBERT FEARS POLISH TROUBLE Thinks France Wants Annex Left Bank of Rhine

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