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THE MONITOR

Lifting
Lift, Too!

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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Ballou Convicts Theatre Manager

The General Says His Bulletin Was One of Advice, Designed to Prevent Racial Friction and Had Nothing to Do With Any Policy of Segregation.

EXPLANATORY LETTER TO EMMETT SCOTT

Implies That Pro-German Influences Are Actively at Work to Aggravate Grievances of Colored Americans.

CAMP FUNSTON, Kansas, May 15.—It transpires that while Major-General C. C. Ballou of the Ninety-second Division, was addressing the men under him through Bulletin No. 35 he was at the same time pressing the prosecution of the theatrical manager who had discriminated against a sergeant of the division.

The prosecution of the manager of the Wareham theater for discrimination on account of color, instigated at General Ballou's request, was, after being twice continued, tried in police court at Manhattan, Kan., a few days ago and resulted in the conviction of the defendant and the imposition of a fine of \$10 and costs. It is generally assumed that the conviction of the theatrical manager will serve to prevent a repetition of the offense and will deter other theater owners and managers from making discrimination on account of color. General Ballou followed the same course here as he did at the officers' training school at Des Moines, Ia., last summer, namely, while admonishing his men to refrain from precipitating racial disturbances, to prosecute those who should discriminate against his men.

General Ballou Writes Scott.

The following letter, addressed to Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war, although dated April 22, 1918, has just been made public, since the prosecution and conviction of the offending theater manager. A letter similar in character has also been written to the editor of the Crisis, New York. The letter to Mr. Scott follows:

Headquarters 92d Division,
Camp Funston, Kansas,
April 22, 1918.

Mr. Emmett J. Scott, War Department, Washington, D. C.:

My Dear Mr. Scott—I have your request that I make a brief statement relative to Bulletin No. 35, these headquarters. There seems to be no good reason why I should not do so.

Here are the preliminary facts:

A soldier of this division got into trouble with a theater manager at Manhattan and reported it to me. I at once ordered an investigation, placed the facts before the division judge advocate and was informed by him that the theater manager had violated the law. I then put the case in the hands of the United States attorney and requested the prosecution of the theater manager. The case was set for April 22. I then issued Bulletin No. 35, which, in brief, is counsel to my soldiers to avoid race troubles. This bulletin was given out to the colored press of the country, accompanied by an entirely misleading letter that not only completely suppressed all mention of any prosecution of the theater manager, but directly and falsely conveyed the impression to editors and readers that I had not done so. The most prejudiced person will, I think, at once see that this was a malicious attempt to stir up race feeling by misrepresentation.

Good Order and Military Discipline Foundation Stones.

The character of Bulletin No. 35 was that of advice, as already stated. This advice was ordered published to the division. It had nothing to do with any policy of segregation or with any policy outside of the military establishments. Its purpose was to prevent race friction, with the attendant prejudice to good order and military discipline. Good order and military discipline are the foundation stones of the military service. They are indispensable. Nothing connected with the service of the colored troops has ever been so threatening to good order and discipline as race troubles have been, and it is well known that our enemies have sought to profit by this fact ever since there was a prospect of war. No stone has been left unturned. There have always been foes of our country ready to aggravate the grievances of the colored people on the one hand and to stir up the whites on the other. It was no mere coincident that the East St. Louis atrocities occurred in a

city filled largely with German sympathizers.

There is little doubt that the same influence egged on both whites and blacks at Houston. Most troubles have small beginnings. At Houston they grew from the fact of colored soldiers entering cars reserved for whites and other similar matters. Great wrongs were eventually committed on both sides, culminating in the killing of a score or more of white people and the hanging of thirteen negroes. In the midst of all the feeling and excitement caused by the East St. Louis and Houston troubles, the colored officers' training camp at Fort Des Moines won golden approbation all over the United States, made thousands of friends for the colored race and achieved a glorious success. It did all of this by following precisely the advice that was repeated to the Ninety-second Division in Bulletin No. 35.

"By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them."

Our enemies do not wish the United States to have its military power increased by colored soldiers, and they stand ready to add fuel to every race discord in order to embarrass our country as much as possible in this war. Is it any wonder then, in view of what the enemy has accomplished in the past and is seeking to accomplish again, that the commander of the colored division seeks to nip troubles in the bud, and while prosecuting white men for their offenses against his soldiers, urges the soldiers to do their part to keep the peace and promote harmony.

I have shown that my position and action were deliberately and maliciously misrepresented to the colored people by the suppression of the news of my prompt prosecution of the theater manager and by falsely conveying the impression that I had taken no such action. The entire letter that accompanied Bulletin No. 35 to the press of the colored people was a misrepresentation of my attitude and of the facts in the case, and no fair-minded person, when the facts are known, as stated above, can fail to see the work of an enemy—an enemy of our country and an even greater enemy to the colored race. Is the colored race going to "fall" to such schemes? I think not. I think they will contrast the work of the trouble-maker with the solid achievements of the colored officers' training camp at Fort Des Moines and of the Ninety-second Division and consider thoughtfully the words, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Sincerely,
C. C. BALLOU, Major-General,
Commanding 92d Division.

Speakers to Present U. S. War Aims

Announcement Made Through Office of Emmet Scott, Special Assistant to Secretary of War.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF WORK

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, D. C.—Through the office of Mr. Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war, it is announced that the war department and the speaking division of the Committee on Public Information, recognizing the importance of enlightening Negro public opinion as to the war aims of the government, have decided to appoint a special committee of speakers, to be composed of leading colored Americans, who shall, as opportunity offers, seek to create and mobilize public opinion, which shall back up the government in the prosecution of the war.

As has been stated, the issue of this struggle depends to a large extent on the way public opinion in the United States is stimulated and directed. It is, indeed, only through the united efforts of enlightened and enthusiastic Americans that the full strength of the nation can be exerted, that victory can come to our righteous cause, and that America can accomplish those things for which she entered this conflict. Upon the leaders of our public opinion, therefore, rests a responsibility heavier than perhaps ever rested upon any group of people in our entire history. It is a task which can be performed only by men and women who themselves are well informed and who co-operate with all patriotic organizations, governmental and private, which are unifying public opinion in support of the national purpose.

More than sixty gentlemen, who are representative of Negro thought and opinion, have been requested by the war department and the Committee

on Public Information to render the services above indicated, among whom are the following:

Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

Dr. Ernest Lyon, chairman Colored Branch of the Maryland Council of Defense and consul general of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, Baltimore, Md.

Hon. William H. Lewis, former assistant attorney general of the United States, Boston, Mass.

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, editor the Crisis Magazine, New York City.

Hon. Charles W. Anderson, former collector of internal revenue for the Second district of New York City, now assistant commissioner of agriculture for the state of New York; at present serving on exemption board, New York City.

Dr. J. W. E. Bowen, vice president Gammon Theological seminary, Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. John R. Hawkins, financial secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal church, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Robert E. Jones, editor the Southwestern Christian Advocate, New Orleans, La.

Mr. Perry W. Howard, president National Negro Bar association, Jackson, Miss.

Dr. E. C. Morris, president National Baptist convention, Helena, Ark.

Bishop George W. Clinton, senior bishop African Methodist church, Charlotte, N. C.

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Mr. Fred R. Moore, publisher the New York Age, New York City.

Hon. J. C. Napier, president National Negro Business league, Nashville, Tenn.

Mr. Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher the Chicago Defender, Chicago.

Mr. W. T. Andrews, editor the Baltimore Daily Herald, Baltimore, Md.

Hon. Charles N. Love, editor the Texas Freeman, Houston, Tex.

Mr. R. W. Thompson, newspaper correspondent, Washington, D. C.

Prof. Kelly Miller, dean of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, Howard university, Washington, D. C.

Dr. John Hope, president Morehouse college, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Nelson C. Crews, editor Kansas City Sun, Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. N. D. Shamborguer, pastor Methodist Episcopal church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mr. W. Clarence Hueston, attorney-at-law, Kansas City, Mo.

Patriotic Campaign to Be Undertaken.

This patriotic campaign will be undertaken at an early date and zones of activity will be worked out whereby the gentlemen above named may have full opportunity to serve the United States government in this hour of national emergency and need.

There is also being worked out a program whereby representative women of the race may later be called into service to conduct a similar campaign of patriotic activity.

In addition to this special campaign will be conducted in all of the camps and cantonments where Negro soldiers are stationed, and in the cities surrounding such camps and cantonments by colored physicians, surgeons, etc., who will seek to promote the best possible health conditions among the soldiers of the various camps. This work will take the form of lectures, clinics, stereopticon talks, etc., dealing with those subjects which directly concern the moral and physical welfare of the colored soldiers. A selected group of prominent physicians and surgeons will have charge of this campaign.

DOMESTICS JOIN UNION TO ASK RAISE

New Orleans, La.—Horrors of war are as nothing compared to what New Orleans housewives may experience within the next fortnight. All because domestics of New Orleans have been unionized.

Of late threats to organize the domestic help of New Orleans were fulfilled Tuesday night when the wife of Sylvester Pete, a labor leader, organized "The Colored Domestic Union" at a meeting of over 300 colored cooks, housemaids, washerwomen and nurse girls, in Pythian Temple. Units recruited in the union are preparing plans for battle. Word from the headquarters last week was that the first skirmish with employers will be for shorter hours and higher wages. The union will seek a charter from the American Federation of Labor, it was said.

Are Decorated For Their Bravery

Privates Johnson and Roberts Give "Magnificent Example of Courage and Energy" When Attacked by Force of Twenty-five Germans.

SOLDIERS MAINTAIN TRADITION

Engage in Heroic Hand to Hand Encounter with Superior Force; Wounded but Conquer; Their Colonel a Former Nebraskan.

By Junius B. Wood.

Special Cable to Omaha World-Herald and Chicago Daily News.

WITH American Army on French Front, May 20.—This story of gallantry of two American Negro soldiers, who attacked a party of twenty-five German, early last Thursday morning and completely routed and beat off the enemy, killing or wounding five men although themselves wounded, carries with it the announcement that Negro troops have for about a month been holding a part of the front line trenches in the Steinhould region west of Verdun.

These troops, acting in close association with the French, have discharged their duties in the most excellent fashion. The Tuesday night fight being typical of their conduct. It is described by military observers as worthy of the best traditions of the American army.

Occupied Advance Post.

Early Thursday morning five Negroes occupied an advance post jutting out into No Man's Land. Three were asleep in a dugout and the two others were on guard.

These two men were Henry Johnson of 23 Monroe street, Albany, N. Y., and Nedham Roberts of Trenton, N. J. About 3 o'clock when it was still dark, Johnson thought he heard a noise and called out, "Here they come." A sergeant back of the post shot off a flare, disclosing the figures of a squad of Germans trying out the barbed wire surrounding the post. Later it was ascertained that they had entered an abandoned trench to the right of the post about 2 o'clock with the intention of gobbling up the occupants just as soon as the flare lighted up the surroundings.

Wounded by Grenades.

The Germans threw grenades, which wounded Johnson and Roberts, felling both. But the two men white lying on the ground threw grenades back at the Germans, who were now forcing an entrance.

As the first came in Johnson regained his feet and shot him through the chest, but his rifle jammed and so he used it as a club, knocking down a second German with a blow on the head.

Three other Germans had slipped by and one was trying to check the prostrate Roberts, while two others tried to carry him off. His rifle was broken, but Johnson drew a long trench knife, which the colored men call "Bolo knife," and brought it down upon the skull of one of the Germans. Later it was found that the knife was stained with blood, as was the German cap picked up nearby.

Lunged With Knife.

Another German leaped at Roberts, who lunged forward with the knife, almost disemboweling the man. Both Johnson and Roberts swear that the German cried out in English, "The son of a — got me."

Johnson all this time was shouting "Turn out the guard," but another German fired at him with a revolver, the bullet striking him in the arm. As the intrepid Negro fell he managed to hurl a single grenade which, from the signs found in the morning, blew the German to pieces. Then Johnson fainted.

But the Germans had had enough and they scuttled off in the darkness, bearing away the killed and wounded and leaving behind stretchers, wire cutters, grenades and revolvers. Strong patrols searched for them but were unable to find them.

Awarded War Cross.

Both the colored men were awarded the French Croix de Guerre with palms, accompanied by army order The Johnson citation read:

"Johnson gave a magnificent example of courage and energy." Roberts' was described as a "Good and brave soldier." Negroes previously took part in a rain in which they entered the German trenches and brought back three prisoners after finding slight resistance. This opera-

tion was executed with the French. They go out patrolling No Man's land every night and have been shelled frequently. Their sector is a veritable sniper's nest and German bullets whistle about constantly but they are full of enthusiasm in their surroundings. They had not had a casualty until Thursday's fight.

Soldiers Will Recover.

Both Johnson and Roberts will recover, though wounded in many places by grenade splinters. Most of these troops are from New York and their commander is a former New York official, who hails originally from Nebraska.

LIBERIA ASKS AMERICAN AID

President Wilson Evinces Deep Interest in the Welfare of the Besieged Republic; Claims Admirably Presented by Representative Men of the Nation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—At the recent conference at the White House with President Wilson, when consideration was asked for the application of the Republic of Liberia for a loan of \$5,000,000, the following well known men presented the claims of the overseas government in a highly convincing fashion:

Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute; Dr. Ernest Lyon of Baltimore, Liberian consul general to the United States; Attorney William H. Lewis of Boston, former assistant attorney general of the United States; Dr. James H. Dillard, president of the Slater and Jeanes Fund Boards of Trustees; Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones of the Phelps-Stokes fund, and Mr. Emmett J. Scott, who was a member of the American commission to Liberia in 1909 and at present serving as special assistant to the secretary of war.

President Wilson greeted the party most cordially and expressed deep interest in the cause as presented by his callers.

The Red Cross, Mercy's Maid,
Calls upon you now for aid.

Riveters Break World Record

Charles Knight and a Crew of Seven Surpass All Previous Records Made in Riveting Ships.

BALTIMORE, Md., May 17.—A gang of Negro riveters working at Sparrows Point, Md., in the Bethlehem Steel Corporation broke the world's record for driving rivets. One of the gang, Charles Knight, drove 4,875 three-quarter-inch rivets in a nine-hour day. The previous highest record was 4,442 made by a workman in a Scottish shipyard. This is the way the Negro is demonstrating his patriotism at home while his brothers in black in the army are showing it in France. Mr. Knight is a highly respectable and industrious citizen of Baltimore, a native of Virginia.

Telegrams announcing the new record were sent to Mr. Charles M. Schwab, director general for the fleet corporation, and other officials connected with shipbuilding. If a bridge of ships will enable our soldiers to go over, to be fed and our allies to have supplies the Negro will have a large share in building those ships. Mr. Knight is one of thousands of Negro shipworkers. At Newport News yards alone there are about 8,000 employed.

Commenting on this performance of work the Washington Times of May 18 said:

"Not many months ago German propagandists were spreading the story that the colored people of the South, even as far north as this city, were preparing to revolt against the government and do what they could to hinder the work of the war.

"Day before yesterday there was a revolution, but it was not the kind the Germans planned. Charles Knight, colored, and seven colored helpers turned upside down every record that had ever been made for driving rivets into the hulls of ships.

"That is the kind of a revolution the colored men of this country are carrying on.

"That is the kind of a revolution they may be depended on to carry on to the end of the war.

"Foreman Knight set an example of efficiency to every citizen of the country, whether he be black or white."

Soldiers Pleased With France

Encounter No Blighting Race Prejudice There, Where Character and Merit Alone Count and Color Raises No Sinister Bar.

DEMOCRACY A REALITY THERE

More Than Twenty Thousand Sable Sammies Have Been Landed in France. Colonel Hayward's Men Known to be on the Firing Line.

RECENT estimates place the number of United States Colored men in France at 20,000. This force includes the following: Fifteenth Regiment, of New York; the old Eighth, of Illinois; a battalion from Ohio, one from Massachusetts, several separate companies and about 2,000 stevedores. All are volunteers. There are also a large number of colored volunteers serving as mess attendants on transports and war ships.

None of the colored regiments of the Regular Army; the Ninth, Tenth, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth, have been sent to France as yet.

The Post-Dispatch, this week, publishes an article by Lincoln Eyre, Staff Correspondent with the American Army in France, in which he gives the Negro soldier, "Over There" high praise. In writing directly about the New York volunteers, Eyre says: "Since January they have been in France, and many considerations make this contingent as interesting as any the United States has contributed to the common cause.

"The standard of intelligence in the unit is extremely high and no illiteracy is noticeable. Many of the men have become French talkers and I heard animated conversations between our men and the Senegalese who chanced to be passing."

No Racial Prejudice.

"The American Negro lads get along famously with both white and black Frenchmen. In their dealings with the feminine population they are punctiliously polite, and not a single complaint has been lodged against them in this respect. Naturally they are delighted at the complete lack of racial prejudice they have found in France, and some of them have declared to me their intention of remaining here after the war. Their pride in their unit speaks well for a continuance of the high morale they have manifested so far.

Band of Forty Pieces.

"But they seem to be prouder still of their band of 40 pieces. Some one donated \$10,000 for this band. He would never regret it if he could see how much pleasure it has brought into the dreary lives of the aged men, women and children in the villages in which the Negro troops have sojournd.

"James Europe, once considered America's greatest Negro bandmaster, and now a first lieutenant with the New York outfit, drafted 17 members of the Municipal Orchestra of Porto Rico, in order that his regimental band should have worthy players of reed instruments."

White Lieutenants Serve Under Negro Captains.

"Democracy is carried to the nth degree in this New York outfit. There are two Negro Captains under whom white lieutenants are serving without the least friction. Lieutenant Europe's fellow officers include a newspaper man once on the New York World and a member of a millionaire family who was militia secretary to Governor Whitman. (Lieutenant-Colonel Lorillard Spencer.)

"The Negro unit landed in France after three attempts, having been the victims of accidents on the sea, not by submarines, but by faults in their transport. Eyre says:

Trained by Frenchmen.

"They were immediately sent to another maritime base, where they did every imaginable chore from chopping wood to building railroads. Not until March were they ordered North to begin training under French instructors, close to the front.

"While this was the first American Negro contingent to reach France, there are others now undergoing intensive training at widely separated points. I visited three other outfits."

DELEGATION WAITS ON MAYOR

A delegation waited on the mayor and commissioners Tuesday morning in the interests of Amos P. Scruggs, whom they would like to see retained as inspector of weights and measures.