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THE MONITOR

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A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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Hayward's Story of Soldiers' Heroism

Colonel of the 369th Infantry, Who
Have Won Renown in France,
Writes Letter to Wife of Soldier of
His Command Who Was Decorated
For Bravery in Action.

MEN AWARDED PRIZE MONEY

Letter Tells How the Two Sable Sam-
mies, Outnumbered Ten to One and
Wounded, Routed Hun Assaultants.

NEW YORK. — Colonel William Hayward's own story of the bravery of Private Henry Johnson, 369th infantry, which brought him the French war cross, is contained in a letter which the colonel has written to Private Johnson's wife, Mrs. Edna Johnson, 23 Munroe street, Albany, in which he cites graphically the instances of coolness and fighting ability of Private Johnson against great odds.

Johnson was wounded in a trench raid which he and another comrade effectively stopped, and in addition to the war cross 50 francs, which General Gourand of the French forces gave to Colonel Hayward for the use of the family of the first man in his regiment to be wounded under heroic circumstances, has been sent to Mrs. Johnson.

Colonel Hayward's letter follows: "Your husband, Private Henry Johnson, is in my regiment, 369th United States infantry, formerly Fifteenth New York infantry. He has been at all times a good soldier and a good boy of fine morale and upright character. To these admirable traits he has lately added the most convincing numbers of fine courage and fighting ability. I regret to say at the moment that he is in the hospital, seriously but not dangerously wounded, the wounds having been received under such circumstances that every one of us in the regiment would be pleased and proud to trade places with him. It was as follows:

"We had learned some time ago from captured German prisoners that the Germans had heard of the regiment of black Americans in this sector, and the German officers had told their men how easy to combat and capture they would be. So this raiding party came over and, on the contrary, Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts were very much awake and alert and attending strictly to their duties. At the beginning of the attack the Germans fired a volley of bullets and grenades, and both of the boys were wounded, your husband three times and Roberts twice; then the Germans rushed the post, expecting to make an easy capture. In spite of their wounds the two boys waited coolly and courageously, and when the Germans were within striking distance opened fire, your husband with his rifle and Private Roberts from his helpless position on the ground with hand grenades. But the German raiding party came on in spite of their wounds and in a few seconds our boys were at grips with the terrible foe in a desperate hand-to-hand encounter, in which the enemy outnumbered them ten to one.

"The boys inflicted great loss on the enemy, but Roberts was overpowered and about to be carried away when your husband, who had used up all of the cartridges in the magazine of his rifle and had knocked one German down with the butt end of it, drew his bolo from his belt. A bolo is a short, heavy weapon carried by the American soldier, with the edge of a razor, the weight of a cleaver and the point of a butcher knife. He rushed to the rescue of his former comrade and, fighting desperately, opened with his bolo the head of the German who was throttling Roberts and turned to the boche who had Roberts by the feet, plunging the bolo in the German's bowels. This one was the leader of the German party and on receiving what must have been his mortal wound exclaimed in American English, without any trace of accent, 'Oh, the son of a — got me!' thus proving that he was undoubtedly one of the so-called German-Americans who came to our country, not to become a good citizen of it, but to partake of its plenty and bounty and then return to fight for the kaiser and help enslave the world. He was doubtless selected as a leader of the party to speak English and perhaps fool my soldiers, calling to them in English not to fire, that it was a friend.

"Henry laid about him right and left with his heavy knife, and Roberts,

released from the grasp of the scoundrels, began again to throw hand grenades and exploded them in their midst, and the Germans, doubtless thinking it was a host instead of two brave Colored boys fighting like tigers at bay, picked up their dead and wounded and slunk away, leaving many weapons and part of their shot-riddled clothing and leaving a trail of blood, which we followed at dawn near to their lines. We feel certain that one of the enemy was killed by fire, two by your husband's bolo, one by grenades thrown by Private Roberts and several others grievously wounded. So it was in this way the Germans found the black Americans. Both boys have received a citation of the French general commanding the splendid French division in which my regiment is now serving and will receive the Croix de Guerre (cross of war). The citation translated is as follows:

"Some time ago the great General Gourand placed in my hands the sum of 100 francs to be sent to the family of the first one of my soldiers wounded in a fight with the enemy under heroic circumstances. Inasmuch as these boys were wounded simultaneously, and both displayed great heroism, I think it but fair to send to each one-half of this sum."

War Department Not to Discriminate

All Cases of Alleged Unfairness Reported Will Be Fully Investigated; Secretary Baker Says, "Any Wrong Done Will Be Righted."

Washington, D. C., July 1.—The War department has made it clear that it will tolerate no discrimination against Colored draftees by the local draft boards in any section of the country and that cases of alleged unfairness will be fully investigated and corrected by the departmental authorities.

Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, in a recent interview, speaking with reference to alleged discrimination against Colored draftees, said in part:

"I have heard that draft boards in adjoining counties take a different view of practically identical facts with regard to Colored men; but the answer in all these cases is that a review is provided directly by the president, and all that is necessary for anybody to do who thinks there is a grievance is to point it out to the War department, and it will be investigated. If the draft boards act unfairly we will correct their action.

"The War department will brook no discrimination, and any cases of alleged or suspected discrimination brought to our attention will be investigated, and any wrong done will be righted."

SOLDIER NABS ENEMY SPY Mexican Posing as a Negro and Working in an Ammunition Plant Arrested as German Spy.

New York.—Sergeant Clarence Reason of the Fifteenth regiment trapped and arrested a Mexican posing as a Negro and working for the enemy at one of the New Jersey ammunition plants.

Sergeant Reason a few weeks ago was assigned the task of rounding up several of the men of his regiment who had not reported for duty and who, it was believed, had sought work in the ammunition plants. Sergeant Reason went upon his task in plain clothes and at one of the plants he visited came upon the German-Mexican tool, who approached him with an offer and a plan of making "easy money," promising a division of \$1,000 a piece if he would join with him in the firing and bombing of ammunition plants.

Sergeant Reason, seeing the opportunity of doing his country a valuable service outside his regular line, asked time, promising to interest a friend who, he told the Mexican tool of kaiserism, was "good" at that kind of work. The sergeant then looked around for some one to act as a witness in support of his charges against the spy. As soon as this was achieved he had the Mexican arrested.

As a result of Sergeant Reason's patriotic work the Mexican is now reposing in the county jail of Newark, held in \$25,000 bail, and several other enemy workers have been ferreted out through information grilled out of the prisoner.

Many are giving their lives; you are asked only to loan your money.

Colored Editors and Leaders In Conference

Moulders of Public Sentiment Consider Methods by Which the Negro May Best Aid the Nation to Win the War.

NOTABLE ADDRESSES BY OFFICIALS OF HIGH STATION

Free, Frank and Full Discussion of Many Vital Issues Affecting Colored Americans Characterize Representative Gathering.

Washington, District of Columbia.—By the authority and direction of the War Department and the Committee on Public Information, Emmett J. Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, called to Washington recently for a conference, thirty or forty representatives of important Colored newspapers of the country, together with a number of the leaders of thought and opinion among the Negro people, to consider methods by which the millions of Colored people of the nation may best assist in the winning of the war.

Proceedings Marked by Dignity and Unity.

The conference formally opened Wednesday morning, June 19, in the main auditorium of the new building of the Department of the Interior, 18th and F streets, northwest, at 10:30 o'clock, and continued throughout Thursday and Friday, June 20 and 21.

Mr. Scott presided at all of the sessions which were marked by an earnestness of purpose, a broad grasp of the questions at issue, and an unwavering loyalty to the flag of the nation, as well as by an intense devotion to the highest interests of the Colored Americans for whom they came primarily to speak.

The discussion covered a wide range and the conferees were given an opportunity to present their views, reflecting the state of mind of the Colored people of the country, with the utmost freedom and frankness, unhampered by parliamentary restrictions or any effort to direct opinion in any particular channel—save that of utilizing in the most effective manner every resource at the command of the race to bring victory to the American arms in its present struggle for liberty and world-wide democracy. Mr. Scott's admirably tempered addresses at various stages of the deliberations repeatedly admonished the conferees to voice their sentiments fully and fearlessly, laying all grievances and suggestions for their redress upon the common altar, with the view of strengthening where needed the patriotism and morale of the Negro people. So fair and impartial were the rulings of the chair upon every point raised or principle enunciated, that at no time was a single exception taken to them. Every conceivable shade of individual opinion was represented in the body, but there was from the outset a firm disposition to subordinate private and personal considerations to the general good, without regard to politics, creed, faction or section. This lofty aim was adhered to most religiously. Dignity of statement, harmony of thought and unity of action were the predominating features of the three days' session. The document, reported by the special committee appointed to summarize the expression of the conference as to the best plans for the mobilization of the resources of the 12,000,000 Negroes of the republic in support of the war as a part of the government, was adopted by a unanimous vote, given heartily and enthusiastically. "America" was sung with fervor and unction as final adjournment was taken.

Notable Addresses by Officials of High Station.

The conference was addressed in sympathetic vein, during the sessions, by the following notable officials of high station:

Hon. Newton D. Baker, secretary of war.

Mr. George Creel, chairman of the committee on public information.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy.

Mr. Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States shipping board.

Major Joel E. Spingarn, attached to the general staff, United States army.

Captain Arthur S. Spingarn, of the medical reserve corps, national army.

General Paul Vignal, military attache of the French embassy.

Major Edouard Requin and Major

L. DeMontal, of the French high commission.

Extract From Resolutions Adopted

The following is extract from the resolutions adopted by the conference:

"We, the thirty-one representatives of the Negro press which has a circulation of more than a million copies, principally among the Colored people of America, and representatives of other activities, wish to affirm first of all, our unalterable belief that the defeat of the German government and what it today represents is of paramount importance to the welfare of the world in general and to our people in particular.

"We deem it hardly necessary, in view of the untarnished record of Negro Americans to reaffirm our loyalty to our country and our readiness to make every sacrifice to win this war. We wish, however, as students and guides of public opinion among our people, to use our every endeavor to keep these 12,000,000 people at the highest pitch, not simply of passive loyalty, but of active, enthusiastic and self-sacrificing participation in the war.

"We are not unmindful of the recognition of our American citizenship in the draft, of the appointment of Colored officers, of the designation of Colored advisors to the government departments, and to other indications of a broadened public opinion, nevertheless we believe today that justifiable grievances of the Colored people are producing not disloyalty, but an amount of unrest and bitterness which even the best efforts of their leaders may not be able always to guide unless they can have the active and sympathetic co-operation of the national and state governments. German propaganda among us is powerful, but the apparent indifference of our own government may be dangerous.

"The American Negro does not expect to have the whole Negro problem settled immediately; he is not seeking to hold up a striving country and a distracted world by pushing irrelevant personal grievances as a price of loyalty; he is not disposed to catalogue, in this tremendous crisis, all his complaints and disabilities; he is more than willing to do his full share in helping to win the war for democracy and he expects his full share of the fruits thereof—but he is today compelled to ask for that minimum of consideration which will enable him to be an efficient fighter for victory."

Camp Dodge, Ia., June 18.—By a War department order the entire officers' training school of the Ninety-second division was transferred from here to Camp Pike, Little Rock, Ark.

DEBS ARRESTED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGE

Cleveland, O., July 1.—Eugene V. Debs was arrested Sunday on a secret indictment, said to contain ten counts, under the espionage act.

The indictment was in connection with a speech made at the socialist state convention in Canton, O., June 16th.

Debs, socialist candidate for the presidency four times, was about to deliver an address here when United States marshals arrested him.

Debs has always been a great friend of the Colored people and outspoken in their defense.

AMERICAN "BIRDS" FLY 400 MILES IN ITALY

Rome, July 1.—An escadrille of American airmen, piloting Caproni planes, flew from Milan to Rome, a distance of 403.65 miles. They were under command of Captain La Guardia, former New York congressman.

Negroes Cool As They Beat Huns

Colored Boys Prove Value as Fighters in Attack Near Verdun; Only One Is Wounded.

BY FRANK J. TAYLOR,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

WITH the American Armies in France, July 1.—American Negro troops proved their value as fighters east of Verdun June 12. The Germans attempted a raid in that sector, but were repulsed completely by the Negroes.

The boches began a terrible bombardment at 12:01 a. m., throwing over between 3,000 and 4,000 shells from guns ranging in size from 67 to 340 millimeters. The bombardment was concentrated on small areas.

Many of the shells made holes from ten to fifteen feet across.

The Negroes coolly stuck to their posts, operating machine guns and automatic rifles and keeping up such a steady barrage that the German infantry failed to penetrate the American lines.

The Americans sustained only one wounded.

"Dixie luck was a-workin' with us," explained one. "We all got knocked down lots of times, but every man got right up."

Officers Praise Negroes.

During the attack a machine gun crew was bowled over by minenwerfer attacks, which made a fifteen-foot hole, ten feet from them. They all got up, remounted the gun and continued shooting until it jammed. Then, despite the bombardment, they fixed it and again turned it on the Germans. This was repeated twice.

Both French and American officers reported that the Negroes performed like veterans and compared with the best troops.

Equal Rights Made To Congress

Delegates to Session Here Put Petition in Senator Penrose's Hands.

(Washington Post, June 30, 1918.)

CONGRESS is requested to make lynching a crime against the federal government, and as such subject to the jurisdiction of the federal courts, in a petition unanimously passed by the National Colored Liberty Congress, which closed its sessions here yesterday.

This and five other requests for the abolition of specific race discrimination are advocated by the petitioners as a win-the-war measure. The petition has been placed in the hands of Senator Penrose and is to be presented to the senate this week.

The Colored congress protests that Negroes are discriminated against in public and federal buildings in federal territory, in public carriers operated by the government in certain states, in the army and navy schools, in the right of suffrage in certain states and in the civil service.

The petitioners ask, in view of the military service rendered by their race during the present war, "that our own republic may not be a part of the world not safe for democracy." They also protest the segregation of races in the officers' schools.

The congress was called for the purpose of laying the cause of the Colored man before the United States congress and was attended by 115 delegates from thirty-three states. H. H. Harrison of New York was chairman of the congress and Prof. J. W. Bell of Kentucky secretary. William M. Trotter of Boston was elected chairman of the national executive committee for the coming year. M. W. Spencer was elected secretary.

COLONEL YOUNG VISITS THE WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, D. C., July 1.—Colonel Charles Young of the United States army, who has been stationed at his home in Wilberforce, O., since his retirement from active military service, was a caller at the War department this week. He was presented to Secretary of War Newton D. Baker by Emmett J. Scott, special assistant.

CIVILIANS MUST NOT GIVE DRINK TO SOLDIER GUESTS

Washington, D. C., July 1.—Furnishing of liquor to officers and men of the army within private homes is prohibited under new regulations formulated by President Wilson and Secretary Baker and made public tonight by the commission on training camp activities. Dry zones around every camp, where as many as 250 men are stationed for more than thirty days, also are established.

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