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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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Lieutenant Johnson Writes From France

The Lincoln Star Publishes Interesting Letter From Former Well-Known Football Star on University Team to His Mother—Omaha Lawyer Won Commission at Des Moines.

GERMAN PRISONERS MERE BOYS

France a Wonderful Country With Its Substantially Built Villages of Stone Houses and Picturesque Thatched Roofs. Pre-eminently a Land of Homes.

LINCOLN, NEB.—Many German prisoners captured by the Yankees are boys from fourteen to seventeen years old, Lieutenant William N. Johnson, Colored, former star Nebraska football player, writes from "somewhere in France." The Lincoln man is a member of Col. Hayward's regiment of Colored troops.

Johnson will be remembered as one of the greatest ends in Cornhusker



LIEUT. WILL N. JOHNSON.

football history. He was a wonderful tackler and also a brilliant all-around gridiron performer.

He played on the Nebraska football eleven four years, his last year being 1906. He graduated from the law college and after practicing in Lincoln for a short time moved to Omaha and continued in the law business.

His mother, Mrs. Laura Johnson, of 2010 South Fourteenth street, has received the following letter from him:

"I will tell you something about France. First, we have arrived. Far out at sea we could get the first glimpse of land and maybe you think that land does not look good to you when you have been cast about in the sea for a number of days looking for submarines and other deep sea food. The ocean was calm and beautiful all the way, however, and we did not have added to other diversions the thrills of sea sickness. Trees and the dim land looked like the land of promise. We lay in the docks all night and the next day stepped out on the old soil of France, where so much of romance and tragedy was born and where now there is being fought out a great war which is destined to affect the fortunes of the people of the whole world. Moreover it will affect their consciousness and the trend of their thought for great lessons are to be learned by both sides as well as those who sit in the galleries watching in fear.

"France is a wonderful land. When we looked across those beautiful fields where wanton poppies toss their heads above the brown grain and saw where the tide comes in by the winding shores, I did not wonder the Frenchmen are willing to offer their last full measure of devotion to their land. The buildings are permanent. They are constructed in conformity to a typical style of architecture in stone and sit there just as if Frenchmen expected their race to live on a thousand years, and their children's children to abide in the same house.

"In some parts of the country there is still the thatched roof. The walls

are stone, but the roof is made of weeds and straw. Especially is this true of out buildings. If you remember seeing a scene on the stage of a French village, then you will have a typical picture of this little town I am sojourning in 'Somewhere in France.' It seems to be about one-half the size of my birthplace, with a strange tongue, strange customs, and a deal of oddities in dress.

"Yesterday I saw a bridal party marching in columns of twos down the main street. Some of the ladies' hats were tiny sacks of starched lace turned upside down, with two streamers to hold it in place. When I get my check I shall send you one so that you can boast to the American ladies that you have the latest creation from Paris, the birthplace of fashion.

"Do not think for a moment, either, that wooden shoes are relics of other days. Two little French lads of about 8 years come into our camp each day and do some wonderful drilling in wooden shoes. They can speak a very good English, too. They are a little better type, however, than the great bunch of quite ragged gamins who cried out 'Gimme Penny' at the docks. All through the day French girls come to the camp to sell sweets, and chickens, nuts, etc. I can speak with them quite a bit now.

"Yesterday we had a dinner down town in La Cafe. First they brought out a big plate of something like clams, but very small. They were cooked, of course, in the shell as live lobsters are. They were very fine. A bottle of white wine is served with this. The wine is very light with scarcely more alcohol in it than near beer. Then they served an omelette and that was followed by some very delicious mutton chops, French fried potatoes and new string beans, a red wine is generally served with the entree if you wish it. After we had eaten this they brought in fruit which seemed like a green peach and some fresh almonds, which were in the hull, green and not very good to eat, according to my notion. Then coffee and we had finished. The dinner came to 4 francs apiece, which is about 70 cents.

"French people are very polite and I find that if you can speak just a little and be very polite like they are they are very interesting and one can get along nicely with them. How would you like to see me in a Sam Browne belt, dear? I am sure you think them very foolish. I shall have to have my picture taken and send it to you. Do you know that I haven't a photo. It is a shame that I haven't some likeness of my dear little mother and sister and wife at least.

"The German prisoners whom I have seen seem to be very contented under their circumstances and are I suspect, much fatter than when they lived in the trenches. I have seen many who were from 14 to 17 years old. In fact, all seem to be very young. I shall send the helmet of the first German I catch in the trenches. Perhaps you can make a market basket of it.

"Write me often, addressing all mail: Lieut. William N. Johnson, Co. G, 366th Infantry, Am. Ex. Forces, via New York."

JACK JOHNSON'S HOME SOLD AT AUCTION

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 23.—The beautiful home which Jack Johnson, champion heavyweight prize fighter of the world, gave to his mother, Mrs. Tiny Johnson, was sold at auction Friday, August 9, following a foreclosure. The brick dwelling and property located at 3344 Wabash avenue were purchased for the sum of \$3,791 by Mrs. Mary C. Bernard.



MISS CORINE THOMAS,
Queen of the Carnival.

Letters From Some of Our Boys From Somewhere in France

Omaha relatives and friends are receiving welcome letters from our boys who have gone overseas. Such letters are of more than individual or personal interest and it will therefore give The Monitor pleasure to publish such of them as may be furnished us for this purpose. Of course, whatever they may contain, which is of a purely private or personal nature, will not be given publicity, but only such portions of them as may be of general interest.

Here is an exceedingly interesting letter from Lieut. Will N. Johnson, the well known Omaha attorney and former football star, written to the editor of The Monitor:

France, July 27, 1918.
Co. G 366th Inf. Amer. Ex. Forces.
A. P. O. 766.

Father John Albert Williams,
Omaha, Neb., U. S. A.

My Dear Father Williams:

I am sure you would have enjoyed this trip and it would have been a splendid thing if by any chance you could come over awhile to observe. You would I am sure secure a wealth of material about which to entertain your readers and many friends for many years to come. God is the "big idea" with the American army in France and the churches with "watch fires" ever bright through the long night are of course the sentinels who put him here.

All of the Omaha men are right here except Captain Peebles. They send greetings.

While the American armies are making the world safe for democracy we of this division are seeing that it is equally safe for freedom and equality to all mankind. That is what we are fighting for. Every soldier in this unit has that in his consciousness and it is very probable that much missionary work in this respect will be done when we come marching home victorious.

I love these French people. They are a simple hearted good nation. There doesn't seem to be even a trace of bitterness in their hearts for the great wrong that has been done them.

Please send me The Monitor to the above address. When I get to an American postoffice I shall remit. My wife, whom I hear from every week, will be in Des Moines until September 1. About the grandest and most glorious feeling a soldier feels is to get some word from home.

I regret exceedingly that officers are not permitted to write for publication, else I should send you some

interesting stories. My kindest regard to Mrs. Williams, George Parker and all friends. I am very truly yours,
WILL N. JOHNSON,
Lt. Inf. N. A.

"TOMMY MASON" HANDLES MAIL

The following two interesting letters have been received by Miss Madeline Roberts, one from Lieut. Pinkett, the other from Sergt. Major Thomas Mason of Nebraska.

American Expeditionary Forces,
July 30, 1918.

Dear Madeline:

Having a few spare moments and thinking of the friends I left behind, I thought I would write you to let you know I'm still kicking, but not high. I would give anything to see you and have a chat with you. Also your mother, and how is she anyway? I trust that you both are in good health. When ever you join the Red Cross let me know and when you come over I'll look you up.

At present I'm feeling fine, plenty to eat, good place to sleep, and all kinds of goods. A good job, but I can't quit when I get ready, that's the only trouble. At present I'm superintendent of the division postoffice, and it keeps me pretty busy, as we have so much mail to handle and also to redirect. But of course I'm at home with the mail—was born with a mail sack in my hand, ha, ha! I presume you have been reading of the great drive the allies are making. It sure sounds good to me because the sooner we make Fritz holler the sooner we can come back home.

What are you doing these days to amuse yourself, taking in any dance and parties? Well, have a good time

(Continued on eighth page)

Third Contingent of Omaha Draftees

Men Dined at the Chamber of Commerce and Accompanied to Train by Hundreds of Relatives and Friends. Cheering Crowds Along Line of March. Men in Fine Spirits.

OTHER cities may send off their selectmen with more enthusiasm than Omaha, but we doubt it. Thursday the third contingent of Colored selectmen entrained for Camp Pike. The number who went was 103.

At 11:30 they were guests of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce where an excellent dinner was served them and two brief speeches given. Then led by Desdunes' band they marched to the court house, where the special program consisting of music by the band and the old soldiers' quartette, and speeches by the Rev. John Albert Williams and Mayor Ed. P. Smith was given and farewells said. Promptly at 1:15 the march to the station began in the following order:

Platoon of Police.
Band.
Chamber of Commerce Committee.
Colored Red Cross.
White Red Cross.
Selectmen.
Citizens.

The arrangements were carried out without a hitch. The men entrained on the Missouri Pacific train for Kansas City which pulled out of the station promptly at two o'clock amid the cheers of the populace for Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The men were given their comfort kits and other gifts as they entrained. "To Win Democracy for the World." The Rev. John Albert Williams and Mayor Smith, who each spoke briefly but with great effectiveness, were frequently interrupted by applause. Father Williams said in part:

"We are assembled here today for a high and holy purpose. We come to bid a sincere Godspeed to an hundred of our brave boys who start today for Berlin. Those who have kept in touch with news from the western

front are convinced that the Yanks have started for that imperial city on the Cannon Ball Limited and every khaki-clad American has a through ticket. And so we are here today to give through tickets to Berlin to this, the third contingent of Colored American draftees from Nebraska, who fare forth with the benediction of high heaven on their banner to win Democracy for the world. And that includes our own beloved United States, which has not yet attained true Democracy. But the democracy for which she stands ideally is coming just as surely as God's in His heaven. And it's coming fast. We've started, and in this great world-conflict we are headed in the right direction. We mean, of course, true democracy, for there is a false democracy and a true democracy. False democracy shouts, Every man down to the level of the average. True democracy cries: "All men up to the height of their fullest capacity for achievement and service." These two ideas are at war. We are fighting for the achievement of true democracy as here defined throughout the world.

I need not review the history of the Colored American soldier. It is an honorable record. You must and will maintain it. Remember always that you are an American soldier. And moreover you are an American soldier of color, a fast color that won't run. These three things I would impress upon you: Be true to God; be true to the teaching of your mother, for any man that does not forget his mother, will never dishonor any woman; and be true to your country. So we speed you forth with a smile upon our face and a song upon our lips.

"Anything But Those Colored Troops" Mayor Smith said in part: "The former speaker has crowded so much into his speech that I can only add a little thereto. Not only as he has well said, are we giving you a ticket to Berlin, but we are giving you a return ticket, for we are determined that no Hun shall keep any of you because we want you all to come back to Omaha.

Do you know how many thousand

WAR WORK OF COLORED WOMEN

Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson Named as Field Representative for Women's Committee of the National Council of Defense.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 24.—Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson has recently been appointed field representative of the women's committee, council of national defense.

This week she is leaving Washington for the states to make a preliminary survey of the war work which is being done among the Colored women by the various state divisions of the women's committee and to assist them in perfecting any organization that may have in hand. In a number of states these auxiliaries are already in existence.

Mrs. Nelson comes to this work from Wilmington, Del., where she is the head of the English department of the Howard high school, which has given her leave of absence for a year in order to do war work among the Colored women of the country. She is well known as a club woman, having served for several years as secretary of the National Federation of Colored Women's clubs, and is intimately in touch with the women of the country who are interested in or actively identified with philanthropic movements or public service organizations.

Mrs. Nelson is the widow of the late Paul Laurence Dunbar, the poet, whose productions are familiar to every household in the land; who first sprang into fame through his verses under the caption of "Lyrics of Lowly Life." Mrs. Nelson is an author of note, having written a volume of very creditable poems and some short stories of Louisiana life, and compiled a collection of best orations by Negro leaders. She is also a newspaper and magazine writer of recognized ability and far-reaching influence.

WOMEN ARE DOING THEIR BIT

Philadelphia, Pa.—Colored women comprising an auxiliary of the overseas committee of the emergency aid have opened a rest and reading room in a central location of Philadelphia. These women are endeavoring to supply every enlisted man with a comfort kit when he leaves and afterward care for the needs of the family.

PRESIDENT WILSON OPPOSES VARDAMAN

Jackson, Miss.—President Wilson, in a letter to Myron McNeil, an attorney of Hazel Hurst, Miss., has gone on record to the voters of the state against the re-election of Senator James K. Vardaman to the United States senate.

of our Nebraska boys have gone forth to fight for the salvation of the world? Forty thousand. And we are proud of them all and of none are we more proud than of you. This war is going to bring us all closer together. The kaiser has no such soldiers in his army as you; for he has no Colored soldiers. He is going to say, when forced to his knees, "I could withstand anything but those Colored soldiers from the United States." Guard your health. A great welcome from a grateful people awaits you on your return.

Here is an incomplete list of the men leaving:

Harry Mitchell, William L. Davis, Harry Murray, Spencer Jackson, Henry A. Caver, Manley B. Dickerson, Roy James Monroe, Frank D. Payne, Wilber Hightower, Walter Puckett, Ira Austin, Rollie Dickins, Rufus Courtney Long, William Whiteley, Paul B. Fleming, Harry W. Reed, Elmer Brooks, Robert L. Dawson, Geo. Washington, Bert Colter, Chas. Jack Robinson, Geo. G. Johnson, Jephtha Moore, Edward Craig, William Cathrum, Leon Simmons, Thomas Laird, Godus L. Leath, Son Thornton, Earl Levell, Alvin Harvie Moore, Mokoiki Sprains, Gilbert H. Cheatham, Edward Whiteley, Louis Banks, Calvin Marks, Henry Brown, Charles Pate, James H. Smith, Gordon Parks, Jessie Fowler, William Alexander, Eugene Dubard, Ernest L. Conaway, Harry L. Morrison, John H. Jackson, Frank Blackwell, Cecil B. Wilks, George K. Cannon, Edw. Downs, Herbert R. Ellis, Walter Barrow, Guy Hawkins, Ernest J. Ervin, McKinley McNair, Charles N. McGee, Abe Danner, Price Williams, Robert Sears, D. W. Arrington, Elgie Talbert, Robert Lee, Leon Roberts, Joshua Gee, O. Cona, Emil Mason, Clifford Bonker.

Colored American In War Work

A Review of What the Negro People Are Doing to Aid in Winning the World-Wide War for Liberty and Democracy.

SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Issued From the Office of Emmet J. Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Company A, 301st Stevedore regiment, "Somewhere in France," has been cited by Rear Admiral Wilson and General McClure for exceptionally efficient work. These Colored men unloaded and coaled the immense steamship "Leviathan," formerly the "Vaterland," in fifty-six hours, making a new world's record, in competition with other stevedore detachments on the western front in France, many of which are white. A film, showing this splendid regiment at work and at play, is to be exhibited throughout the country in the leading Colored and white theaters.

Four-Minute Men

In Los Angeles, Cal., nine Colored "four-minute men" are at work talking up the purchase of liberty bonds, war savings stamps and war organization activities among the Colored people with excellent results.

Army Needs Chaplains

The army is still in need of chaplains. The ultimate plan is to have one for every 1,200 officers and men. It wants a special kind of chaplain—a sturdy, upstanding, brotherly man between the ages of 21 and 45—who cares a good deal more about the welfare of soldiers than about distinctions in creeds. At Camp Zachary Taylor, near Louisville, Ky., the army is conducting a school for chaplains. The course covers five weeks and new classes are formed at about an interval of a week after the current class is graduated. Applicants must pass the physical tests prescribed by the local draft board. While at school the student-chaplain receives free subsistence, lodging and uniform and the pay of a first class private, \$33 per month, with mileage home at the rate of 3½ cents per mile upon the completion of his course. If appointed he takes the rank and pay of a first lieutenant of the national army, \$2,000 a year and \$2,200 abroad. The next class begins August 23. Applicants should apply directly to the adjutant general of the army, who will furnish all necessary information. There are now about thirty-one Colored chaplains in the several branches of the army.

Club for Soldiers

Arrangements have been made for the use of the splendid parish house of the Church of Our Merciful Saviour at Louisville, Ky., as a club for the Colored soldiers, several thousand of whom are stationed at Camp Zachary Taylor nearby. The house has two large reception rooms, a good sized assembly hall, large kitchen, reading and writing rooms, bowling alley, pool room, rathskellar, etc., in basement and toilet and bathing facilities. There are six dormitory rooms, suitable for 24 cots. In addition to this place, there is a prospect for a building to be equipped as a dormitory that will accommodate two to three hundred cots for the Colored soldiers in this vicinity, with small expense, if any, to the men. A group of representative business men have agreed to furnish and equip the building with light and heat.

CONSECRATION OF BISHOP DEMY POSTPONED

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 23.—The consecration of the Rev. E. Thomas Demy as bishop-suffragan of Arkansas, which was set for August 24, has been postponed until September 29.

TO OUR READERS

We are glad The Monitor pleases you. It will also please your friends and neighbors. Show them your copy and get them to subscribe. Help us double our circulation this year by getting one of your friends or neighbors to subscribe.

TO OUR ADVERTISERS

We appreciate your patronage and are pleased to know that The Monitor is bringing you good results. It could hardly be otherwise, since our circulation reaches the best class of buyers in the world.