

Bruce Grit's Column

THE CAMEROONS CAMPAIGN

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Special to The Monitor.
(Continued From Last Week.)

Immediately on the declaration of war General Aymerich, the commander of the troops in French Equatorial Africa took steps to remove the obstacles to communication between that colony and Gabon by seizing the two antennae of German territory touching the Congo and Ubangi, described above. A small force under Inspector Leprince ascended the Congo from Brazzaville and took Bonga by surprise on the 6th of August. The next day Zinga was captured by a company of Senegalese Tirailleurs, which descended the Ubangi from Bangui, 60 miles higher up the river, under Captain Bern. At these places documents were captured which showed that the garrisons were instructed to invade French territory.

General Aymerich despatched two columns to take the German forces in the rear. Colonel Hutin was to advance from Bonga northward up the valley of the Sanga river. The second, under Colonel Morrison, was to move westward along the valley of the Lobage river, which joins the Ubangi river near Zinga. By October this column had advanced 200 miles and occupied Carnot, near the head of the River Sanga, and at Bania, 70 miles lower down the river, got into touch with Colonel Hutin's column. This column, moving partly by land and partly by river, had advanced 300 miles by the 18th of October and captured the important fortified post of Nola, on the Sanga river, thirty miles below Bania. At Nola the German garrison was captured with a small cannon, four machine guns and a quantity of ammunition.

Colonel Hutin now found his communication with Bonga threatened by a force which had marched eastward from Molundu and had seized N'Zimu, half way between Bonga and Nola.

General Aymerich at once hurried up with a force which included a Belgian contingent of 530 rifles, part of which was brought up the river by the armed steamer "Luxembourg." After three days' obstinate fighting in which the "Luxembourg" did good service with its guns, being brought to within 150 yards of the German position, N'Zimu was recaptured on the 29th of October.

Colonel Hutin assumed command of the forces now, including the Belgians, about 2,000 strong. His first care was to clear the N'Goko valley of the enemy so as to secure his lines of communication with Bonga and Zinga. This involved much heavy fighting and it was not till the 21st of December that he was able to occupy Molundu, the German headquarters in this region.

Colonel Morrison, in the meantime, had advanced westward from Bania, the Germans retreating before him till they reached Baturi, on the road to Dume and Younde, where they were joined by the forces retiring before Colonel Hutin's column. Baturi is in the dense forest area, described by General Dobell, where the movement of troops is necessarily slower than in the comparatively open country in which the French had hitherto been operating. Colonel Morrison reached

Baturi on the 9th of December, but the Germans had evacuated it the night before and retired thirty-three miles west, to Bertua. Following them up he attacked them again on the 28th, forcing them to retreat after a sharp fight, and advanced to the neighborhood of Dume. The garrisons of the posts evacuated by the Germans as Morrison advanced now united and, assuming the offensive, not only stopped his progress, but recaptured Bertua and advanced to Moopa, twenty-five miles south of Baturi, where they firmly established themselves.

In this way both the French columns advancing from the south found themselves hung up, and their progress impeded by the difficulties of the terrain, as much as by the skill and determination of the enemy. It was several months before these columns were in a position to effect the operations which had in the meantime been taken in hand by the British forces advancing from the northwestern seaboard.

Simultaneously with the French advance from the south, a French force under the command of General Largeau invaded the Cameroons from the northeast. General Largeau was one of the most distinguished officers of France's African army. He was with Marchand at Fashoda, and had since seen much service in the Sudan, crowning a brilliant career by defeating the Senussi in 1913. He remained in command of the French forces in the Northern Cameroons till October, 1915, when, the operations being nearly completed, he was recalled to France and given command of a brigade of infantry at Verdun where he was killed on the 26th of March, 1916.

Taking personal command of the troops, he crossed the eastern frontier immediately on the declaration of war and attacked Kuseri about seventy miles south of Lake Chad, in the triangle formed by the meeting of the northwest boundary lines between Cameroons and Nigeria on the west and French Equatorial Africa on the east. The town is strongly placed at the junction of the Logone and Shari rivers, well fortified and strongly garrisoned. The attack was repelled, and when the French withdrew, the Germans took offensive, capturing a small post and inducing Karnak the Sultan of Logone, to rise against the French. On the 28th of August the Sultan was defeated by the French, who advanced to Kuseri and again attacked it on the 21st of September. The garrison made a stubborn fight but were compelled to yield by a brilliant bayonet charge of the Senegalese Tirailleurs. They fled in panic and abandoned all their guns, ammunition and other supplies.

General Largeau took possession of Kuseri and made it his base of operations. On the 4th of October a column of Lieutenant Colonel Brisset was despatched to join a force of Nigerian troops operating to the southwest in the region of the Mandara mountains. Colonel Brisset's force consisted mainly of recruits from Mochi, north of Ashanto. Capturing several small posts en route, it arrived at Mora, nearly ninety miles south-southwest of Kuseri on the 11th and joined hands with the Nigerian force.

(To be Continued)



A SCENE IN MESOPOTAMIA

Brazen Impostor Is Exposed On Stage

Thousands Crowd St. Louis Coliseum to Hear "Sergeant Henry Johnson" Tell the Thrilling Story of How He Was Wounded, Captured, Hung and Won the Croix de Guerre.

MEDALS MISLEAD MINISTER

Who Stages Money-Making "Reception" Under Auspices of Eight Churches for Fake Hero of No Man's Land—Parker, Who Posed as Johnson, Lost Leg in California—Hoaxed Audience Good Natured—Entertained With Music and Oratory.

(Special to The Monitor by Staff Correspondent.)

ST. LOUIS, MO., Feb. 27.—Missourians in general and St. Louisians in particular pride themselves on their astuteness. They ridicule the very thought of their being easily deceived or taken in. "I'm from Missouri; you must show me," is the favorite and famous dictum which expresses this confidence in immunity from deception. But St. Louis' conceit on this score has received a severe jolt. A much benedicted and bedecked Alabama Negro, whom the Rev. B. G. Shaw met in Mobile, Ala., last December, told the reverend gentleman that he was Sergeant Henry Johnson of Albany, N. Y., who, with Needham Roberts won distinction in "No Man's Land." The Rev. Mr. Shaw invited him to come to St. Louis, seeing in his advent a golden opportunity to do honor to a hero and also to rake in a few shekels pro hono ecclesia. Mr. Shaw interested some of his fellow ministers. The Coliseum was engaged and the advent of "Sergeant Henry Johnson" was widely advertised. On the day appointed the wounded, Hun-destroying "hero" came. The Coliseum was crowded. The "hero" limped into the hall amid the plaudits of the throng; but he did not speak to the audience. He was called upon to explain to the police how it was possible even in this day of miracles for him to be in the parade in New York city in the afternoon of February 17, 1919, and at the same time be in St. Louis? But here is the story as told by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in its issue of February 18:

The Coliseum, which seats about 10,000, was packed last night with Negroes to hear Sergt. Henry Johnson of Albany, N. Y., member of the 369th New York "Black Watch," who

with Needham Roberts destroyed a German patrol of 26 men with bolo knives, for which he was awarded the Croix de Guerre. But Johnson was in a parade of the 369th in New York City yesterday, as told in late editions of the Post-Dispatch, and what St. Louis Negroes saw was Albert Parker of Alabama, betiseled with tawdy decorations of brass medals of no significance and a gilded bathrobe cord on his shoulder to resemble the regimental decoration of the fourragere, masquerading as Sergt. Johnson, the hero.

As a result of this imposition on the Negroes of St. Louis, Parker was arrested and spent the night in a cell.

Instead of listening with exultant admiration to a recital of thrilling events in No Man's Land in which one of the race distinguished himself, the Negroes heard only a fine musical program and eloquent speeches abounding in glowing superlatives on world democracy and of the share of it that should be apportioned to the black race. Instead of Sergt. Henry Johnson relating how he received wounds in France while fighting for the democracy in which his race should share, the police heard Albert Parker of Alabama relate how he lost his left leg in an accident in California, and received wounds in a fight with razors in an American city.

Mayor Kiel There.

Among the speakers was Mayor Kiel, who entered the hall when the meeting was about half over. The mayor was apprised at once of the deception, and he accepted the cue of others and ignored the attraction of the evening, Parker, who sat through it all, staring stolidly ahead.

The meeting was advertised as a "reception to fearless Henry Johnson, hero of No Man's Land," in a local paper for Negroes. A Post-Dispatch reporter yesterday morning interviewed "Johnson" at the home of the Rev. B. G. Shaw, 613 North Garrison avenue, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion Church, who, with other ministers, arranged the meeting. The Negro wore a regulation army uniform, but his "decorations" were palpably false. An investigation was made, and it was ascertained in the afternoon that Sergt. Johnson was in New York. The Rev. Mr. Shaw was apprised of this, but the tickets for the meeting had been sold, the hall rented and all arrangements made, so it was decided to go through with the affair.

Applause for Fake Hero.

A few minutes after the meeting was called to order, Parker hobbled in on crutches and was received with a burst of applause, and after a selection by the band it was announced

by the master of ceremonies that the real Sergt. Henry Johnson was not present, but in his stead an impostor.

The audience sat for a full minute as though dazed, and then everybody smiled. There was no demonstration, mutterings or threats. A chanting song was given and everybody joined in. The only unhappy person in the house appeared to be the "hero" who shrank in his seat, visibly embarrassed. In the ensuing two hours he was quietly ignored, while the speakers who passed back and forth before him conducted themselves with dignified aloofness.

At the close of the meeting Parker was taken from the hall to police headquarters.

The receipts of the meeting will net the eight churches, which united to bring the man here, about \$2,000, according to the Rev. Mr. Shaw, who said this money will be used for religious and charitable purposes. The "hero" was to have been paid \$150, but he will get nothing.

The Rev. Mr. Shaw explained to a Post-Dispatch reporter how the mistake was made.

"I was in Mobile, Ala., last December, at the railroad station, waiting for my train, when I noticed a large crowd around a Negro in uniform. I approached and asked the man his name. He answered that he was Sergt. Henry Johnson of No Man's Land.

"The man wore what appeared to me to be many decorations, and being unskilled in such things, I assumed them to be genuine. As my train started out I gave him my card and told him we would be glad to see him in St. Louis. Later I received a letter from the man, and took the matter up with the local Colored ministers. We agreed to give the man we thought to be Sergt. Johnson a patriotic reception and use the proceeds for church work. So we arranged the meeting and charged an admission of 25 cents.

Hoax Discovered Too Late.

"The first intimation we had that the man was an impostor was when we saw in the Post-Dispatch that Sergt. Henry Johnson was in New York. It was too late then to call off the meeting, so we arranged the best program possible in the circumstances and did the best we could. The only apology we have to make is that we were duped by an impostor."

A resolution was adopted calling attention of the peace conference to the condition of the Negro race throughout the world, and copies will be sent to the conference.

The speakers were the Rev. Mr. Shaw, the Rev. B. F. Abbott, Union Memorial Church; Dr. Charles Phil-

lips, Frank L. Williams, principal of Sumner High School; the Rev. George E. Stevens, George L. Vaughn and Dr. O. C. Maxwell.

In closing an eloquent plea for equal rights for the Negro, Dr. Phillips said:

"And while all the world is safely reposing in the fields of democracy here in America dwells the most eloquent exponent and builder of freedom the world ever saw—the Negro, but still chasing this phantom of democracy with outstretched hands, only to see it elude his grasp. We have no Wendell Phillips, no Charles Sumner, no William Lloyd Garrison to plead our cause; no Lincoln to proclaim it, no Grant to enforce it; but we have here in St. Louis a most powerful agency for right, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch—the most ardent and effective, fearless and courageous champion of human liberty in the world today."

Several hundred singers from the different church choirs sang selections and two bands kept the audience in a lively mood.



CHILD KILLED BY AUTOMOBILE

Frankie A., the 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Millan, of Patrick avenue, who was killed by an automobile driven by Mr. Van Sant at Twenty-fourth and Patrick avenue late Saturday afternoon, February 8.

INCOME TAX DUE

Returns Must Be Made on or Before March 15—Bill Provides Heavy Penalties.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Work on the collection of \$6,000,000,000 has been begun by the bureau of internal revenue. This is the estimated yield for the new revenue bill. The income tax provisions of the act reach the pocketbook of every single person in the United States whose net income for 1918 was \$1,000, or more, and of every married person whose net income was \$2,000 or more. Persons whose net income equalled or exceeded these amounts, according to their marital status, must file a return of income with the collector of internal revenue for the district in which they live on or before March 15.

Here is what will happen to them if they don't; for failure to file a return on time, a fine of not more than \$1,000 and an additional assessment of 25 per cent of the amount of tax due.

For "willfully refusing to make a return on time, a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or not exceeding one year's imprisonment, or both.

For making a false or fraudulent return, a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, together with an additional assessment of 50 per cent of the amount of tax evaded.

For failure to pay the tax on time, a fine of not more than \$1,000 and an additional assessment of 5 per cent of the amount of tax unpaid, plus 1 per cent interest for each full month during which it remains unpaid.

In addition to the \$1,000 and \$2,000 personal exemptions, taxpayers are

allowed an exemption of \$200 for each person dependent upon them for chief support. Under the 1917 act, this exemption was allowed only for each dependent "child." The head of a family—one who supports one or more persons closely connected with him by blood relationship, relationship by marriage, or by adoption—is entitled to all exemptions allowed a married person.

The normal rate of tax under the new act is 6 per cent of the first \$4,000 of net income above the exemptions, and 12 per cent of the net income in excess of \$4,000. Incomes in excess of \$5,000 are subject also to a surtax ranging from 1 per cent of the amount of the net income between \$5,000 and \$6,000 to 65 per cent of the net income above \$1,000,000.

Payment of the tax may be made in full at the time of filing return or in four installments, on or before March 15, on or before June 15, on or before September 15, and on or before December 15.

Revenue officers will visit every county in the United States to aid taxpayers in making out their returns. The date of their arrival and the location of their offices may be ascertained by inquiring at offices of collectors of internal revenue, postoffices and banks. Failure to see these officers, however, does not relieve the taxpayer of his obligation to file his return and pay his tax within the time specified by law. In this case the taxpayers must seek the government, not the government the taxpayer.

"The Fashion" will be that Cafe and Cabaret at 1314 North 24th street—Adv.