

# French Expect 100,000 Soldiers From West Africa

FORMER AFRICAN PROFESSOR IN BERLIN ORGANIZES LEGION; FEEL HIGH AGAINST NAZIS

Paris, Nov. 16 (By Nancy Cunard for ANP)—L'Afrique Occidentale Française—French West Africa, the Officially-Controlled French radio finally told us, "is able to furnish 1,000,000 black troops." These men are of course not yet translated into soldiers, but the count having been made there the first figures of the sort of number of Negro fighters who will defend France are now available to the public. This number, note, is only that for the French colonies on the West African coast, the lands of the Senegalese, the Ivory-Coastians, the Dahomeans, the Sudanese.

Declaring "We know the Germans since our childhood! We know just what they are! a very large number of Cameroonian men flocked a few days ago to the call sent out by the head chief of Yaounde who had asked leave of the French government to found a Cameroonian legion to fight on the French front. He had been a professor in the School of Oriental Languages in Berlin!

Cameroon will never forget, and never forgive what the Germans did there in the years before the World War—floggings and executions, imprisonments, and murders; all of these while the country was independent. Although passing, by these very means, into the power of Germany.

The eldest son of King Rudolph Manga Bell (paramount chief of the whole country who was shot by the Germans just before the great war) was the first to volunteer. Legally speaking since Cameroon was never conquered, he should at present be the king of the Duala division of his country.

The "Petit Parisien" writes: Since the first days of mobilization the Cameroonians have expressed their sentiments towards France and their actions are in accord with these. One chief has ordered to furnish the families of the mobilized men with all the foodstuffs as they may need. Member of tribes in the western part of the country have already brought by stocks of potatoes, eggs and chickens to "the ladies whose husbands have gone off to defend our heads." I think these words deserve to become immortal; one would like to see them written into a world-history in their own tongue.

Such, and many other demonstrations for France, do show this: not only are the German brutalities ever present in memory, but also the Germans were incapable fundamentally, with their creeds of racial domination (which have merely increased to "Aryan superiority" under Hitler) to govern or administrate, even from their own point of view. After all, remember that, as a Cameroonian told me in Paris: "For us as a mandated people, there is no conscription. But we can volunteer." And they have!

Money too, is coming to France from French West Africa; the latest contribution for national

defense being the sum of 150,000 francs sent by a group of foreign tradesmen established there.

British-African papers were telling us in July that nearly one-fifth of France's man-power is in Africa; rapid transport across the Sahara in giant lorries capable of holding several hundred men and having a special resistance to sand were important points mentioned, and it was thought that the journey from northern Senegal centers would not take much more than two days with these special lorries. Whatever be the truth about this lightning mobilization of huge numbers the fact is that general mobilization, not only at home but in and from all France's colonies has been carried out as has that of the transport from England of the British forces to France.

The colonial commission of the French senate has felicitated Monsieur Mandel, colonial minister, for this effective achievement, and has addressed "its affectionate greetings and gratitude, officially, to the native soldiers and native chiefs.

Madagascans are continuing to send war subscriptions to France. Over 250,000 francs have come just recently. It would seem that "whereas recruiting was not always easy in 1914, today the natives are flocking to defend the French flag," according to a message received from the capital, Tananarive.

As for British Africa—see what sort of interest the Negroes were taking before the war even began:

Only July 20 we read: "air raid pamphlet will soon be translated into Yoruba." Yoruba is one of the languages in Nigeria. The demand is so great that the government is distributing the pamphlet free! And chiefs in Lagos will distribute it, as the electricity company to its consumers! During the World War some of the Gold Coast chiefs provided aeroplanes for the defense of the British empire. The "West African Pilot," of Lagos, Nigeria, wrote on August 9. "News has reached here of the proposed aim of the United government to establish an auxiliary air-force reserve in the Gold Coast colony, the potentiality of British West Africa is being considered along with the question of the defense of the British Commonwealth of nations. However, we deplore the suggestion that only Europeans will be required as reservists. We are proud to say that Africans will gladly defend these shores."

In August also the sum of \$4,100,000 was allocated for the defense of Uganda, Tanganyika, Kenya, Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia.

Quoted in an English paper is a letter from Aina Onabolu, from Nigeria; "Great Britain and France are fighting to protect the weak and to stop unjust aggression. The sudden and unprovoked attack on Poland by Hitler has no parallel in history." It seems opposite here to add a quotation from a West African paper: "The African colonial peoples are wide awake regarding their constitutional rights and any attempt to contradict and restrict those is to make the soil fertile for Nazi propaganda."

The paramount chief of Basutland in South Africa and the queen of Tonga in the Friendly Islands, have pledged the support of their countries in the war against Nazism. Commenting on the massed sympathies of the colored subjects of France and Great Britain, "New Times and Ethiopia News," of London writes: "Underlying the wide support of the colonials is their hatred of Nazism and all it stands for. They have no illusions about Chamberlain's position and policies but want to see Hitlerism crushed."

In the British West Indies fol-

lowing on persistent reports that German submarines were cruising about the Caribbean sea such precautions have been taken that these latitudes so distant from Europe are filled with patrols and with "passive defense," as if they were another war-zone. A "state of emergency" is in force with censorship and curtailment of meetings and free speech.

A British paper speaks of William Patterson's expressed views: "Is it a Black Man's War?" This Negro leader points out that "those in America who hate and persecute Negroes are the friends of the Nazis. The members of the Klan in the American legion, are borrowing from the Nazi's racial theories. The friends of Nazism are the enemies of Roosevelt and of the New Deal policies. No, this is not a white man's war alone. The Polish people must have all possible support from the Negro people."

The Polish people—Today Poland is a conquered country. Many tons of thousands of Poles, living in France are however being made into a separate army which will fight on the French front and the minister of public works

De Monzie has just made public homage to their great leader and patriot Kosciuszko. Kosciuszko should be the concern of every Negro throughout the world: for it was he, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who went to fight against the domination of England in the American War of Independence. Washington chose him as his aide-de-camp. He received the grade of general, the Order of Cincinnati, the title of "Citizen of the USA." So highly was he thought of. He was then 38 and returned to his own country where, in the Revolution of 1794 he held out against the King of Prussia for over four months, was wounded and made prisoner, and later liberated by the Tzar of Russia.

De Monzie said: "Like the Black Virgin of murdered Czestochowa which escaped the German bomb last September, the soul of Poland escapes always. It is difficult to overrun her; impossible to daunt her." This is how they have been fighting in parts of Poland against the Nazis. The uhlan of Colonel Pilsowski attacked the armed tanks with lances at the end of which were burning brands which they tried to thrust into the tank's openings. Sixty Polish cavalrymen were killed before the 61st was able to accomplish this.

Polish workers never forget Kosciuszko. There is one in my own village and he said to me as we were drinking coffee with an American colored friend of mine who knew no French: "Tell him I am of the land of that great man, Kosciuszko, who fought for the liberation of the colored slaves of America."

Disgust and sorrow were felt by the Polish patriot at learning that these slaves were not to be freed by the very fact of their having fought for the liberation of white Americans from the English yoke. He did what he could. He recognized that education is a means of liberation and of progress; and he left Thomas Jefferson the sum of \$20,000 for the education of Negro children when he died.

A very different type of man, the first lord of the admiralty, Winston Churchill, who is half American, made an excellent comparison the other day for which we salute him. His words were to the effect that no matter what the courage and skill shown by the confederates in the American Secession war, the fact remained that they "could not free themselves from the horrible stain of slavery." Today the German people could be compared to them in that they were poisoned by the monstrous thing that is Nazism.

As I end these lines the radio says: "There are tens of thousands in Kenya, British East Africa listening spellbound to wireless broadcasts in their own languages, of news from England and France. White settlers, men-folk, are trekking to Nairobi in great numbers. The women-folks have taken over the running of the farms." Who knows what sort of progress may come out of this struggle of the white powers to the black millions the world over? "We would like to see the African being given his rightful place in the scheme of things. We want a safe and contented British empire at peace with the world, but we claim that Afri-

cans must be given a chance to play their own role in that

scheme." May these words be as well heard as they are well said.

## Nancy Cunard Covers War Negro Press from French Front

Paris, Nov. 16 (ANP)—Chief war correspondent from the French front for American Negro newspapers is an Englishwoman, Nancy Cunard, whose Associated Negro Press dispatches on the part colonial troops are playing in hostilities have already appeared in this newspaper.

A daughter and heir of the founder of the famous Cunard White Star steamship line, she bears the title of Lady Nancy Cunard but prefers being known as plain Nancy Cunard. Deserving what she considered the "shame" of nobility many years ago, she has since then lived democratically. For more than eight years Miss Cunard has been chief correspondent for the Associated Negro Press in France.

A large part of her time is spent in promoting the cause of Negro art and literature. She has met many of the foremost Negro artists and writers and several years ago edited and compiled a large and comprehensive anthology which enjoyed a worldwide sale. On her infrequent visits to America she generally stops at Harlem hotels. So enthusiastic has been her interest that she has been condemned by the more conservative and snobbish Europeans.

Miss Sundard is able to get information on Negro participation in the war through contacts established by long residence in France, not available to other correspondents.

### FURTHER COURT ACTION TAKEN FOR CROSSWAITH

New York, Nov. 16 (C)—Further court action is being taken immediately to reinstate Frank R. Crosswaith's name on the ballots for City Councilman for Manhattan despite the decision of the Board of Elections. So far, the lower court to which the Independent Citizen Committee, headed by A. Philip Randolph, had appealed, has refused to reverse the decision of the Board of Elections. Tammy Hall is charged with having engineered the plot, which is evidenced by

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DR. CARTER G. WOODSON IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, La. Nov. 16 (C)—Dr. Carter G. Woodson, prominent historian and Director of the National Negro History Association, is in New Orleans where the Association convenes from October 27 to 30. Dr. Woodson discussed during the meeting

"The African Background and the International Status of the Negro."

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