

FINDS NEGRO TROOPS ORDERLY ON RHINE

General Allen Reports Charges Are German Propaganda, 'Especially for America.'

66 ACTUAL CRIMES KNOWN

French Authorities Tried Offenders, 28 of Whom Were Convicted and Sentenced.

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—There was issued today a Senate document which gives the full story of the alleged improper behavior of French negro troops in Germany. The document contains the correspondence that has passed between the State Department and the Committees on Foreign Relations of the two Houses of Congress, as well as the full text of the report made to the department in July last by Major Gen. Henry T. Allen, the commander of the American troops in Germany.

The correspondence, which covers the period June 12, 1920, to Jan. 17, this year, was transmitted to Senator Lodge by Under Secretary of State Norman H. Davis. The most interesting of the documents was the report of General Allen, who gives it as his opinion that the propaganda was directed against France by the Germans for the purpose of creating antipathy to France in other countries, "especially in America."

The Department of State points out that since last June it has been receiving protests against alleged misconduct of the French negro troops in Germany and that as a result of these protests the department directed official investigations, one by Mr. Dreisel, the American Commissioner in Berlin, and the other by General Allen, who acted at the suggestion of Ambassador Wallace, the latter having previously communicated with President Millerand of France, at that time the French Premier.

General Allen's report, which is based on a personal investigation made by Colonel LeVert Coleman, U. S. Army, characterizes the charges directed against the French negro troops as a "very violent newspaper campaign," which, he adds, "broke out simultaneously throughout Germany coincident with the time of the French evacuation of Frankfurt and Darmstadt." Much of the trouble, General Allen further informs the Secretary of State, was due to the "attitude of certain classes of German woman toward the colored troops."

In the report made by Mr. Dreisel a so-called American mass meeting that was held in Berlin on July 15 is described. In a cablegram to the Department of State Mr. Dreisel pointed out that the addresses were "bitterly anti-American as well as anti-French" and added that "Miss Ray Beveridge and Mrs. Schefflauer, both American citizens, were particularly vehement in their attacks on President Wilson and the United States Government."

Among other Americans who appeared at the meeting Mr. Dreisel named Edwin Emerson, a former officer of the National Guard of New York, Edith Talbot Schefflauer and Lora Vincent. John Dekay and Rutledge Rutherford sent messages to the meeting, while letters, Mr. Dreisel reported, were read from Mrs. Bayard Taylor and Professor Thomas C. Hall.

In a letter to Mr. Porter, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, Under Secretary Davis states that Colonel Emerson "has been living in Germany since 1917" and that during and since the war he has been carrying on anti-allied propaganda in Germany.

General Allen's Report.

The report of General Allen to the Department of State says in part:

"1. In compliance with your cablegram of June 22, 1920, regarding alleged mistreatment of German women by French colored troops, and in elaboration of my cablegram of June 28, I submit the following report, based on a personal investigation conducted by Colonel LeVert C. Coleman, C. A. C., American liaison officer, with the commanding General of the Allied Forces of Occupation.

"2. During the period from January, 1919, to June 1, 1920:

"(a) The average number of negro troops in the French Army of the Rhine was 5,200 men.

"(b) The average number of French Colonial troops composed of natives of Africa not of pure negro blood, including distinct races such as Arabs from Algeria, Moroccans, &c., and mixed-blood races, such as the Malgaches from Madagascar, who are negroids, was 20,000 men.

General Allen then reports that during the entire period from the first day of the occupation in 1918 to the first of June, 1920, sixty-six cases of alleged sexual crimes were officially reported to the French military authorities against their colored Colonial troops in the occupied territories of the Rhineland. Among these cases there have been twenty-eight convictions, including several cases where the intent was not fully proved, but punishment was given by minor courts, corresponding to our summary and garrison courts. There were eleven acquittals. There were twenty-three investigations leading to trials, the results of which had not been published when the report was made. There were six cases where the offenders could not be found. The penalties inflicted were varied, from ten years at hard labor to thirty days in prison. The report continues:

"3. At the present time, the Senegalese brigade having left the Rhinelands between June 1 and 6, 1920, there actually remains but one regiment of troops of negroid origin, the First Regiment of Chasseurs Malgaches. There are, however, a few individual negroes or negroids in the other French Colonial regiments.

Adroit Political Move.

"4. A very violent newspaper campaign attacking the French colonial troops, especially the negro troops, broke out simultaneously throughout Germany coincident with the time of the French evacuation of Frankfurt and Darmstadt and has continued up to the present time. It is unquestionably a fact that many gross exaggerations were circulated in the German press concerning the conduct of the French colonial troops. The allegations in the German press have been for the most part so indefinite as to time and place and circumstance as to leave it impracticable to verify the alleged facts or to disprove them.

"5. After all proper allowance is made for the natural difficulties, which always are to be expected in tracing crimes of this nature, due to the shame and distress of the victims, the great mass of the articles in the German press, by the simultaneous appearance all over Germany, and by the failure to cite time, place and circumstance sufficiently clear to enable the truth to be ascertained, give to an impartial observer the impression of an adroit political move which would tend to sow antipathy to France in the other lands of the allied and associated powers, especially in America, where the negro question is always capable of arousing feeling.

"6. The Rheinische Zeitung and the Kolnische Volkszeitung recently suspended for publishing attacks on the French colored Colonial troops, admit under date of June 15, that they employed certain terms and expressions which they might better have omitted, due to the imperfection of the news coming for the most part from outside sources, says the Rheinische Zeitung, and from Berlin, says the Kolnische Zeitung. This tends to bear out the opinion noted above, which is further strengthened by dissentient voices in the South German press, which protests against exaggerated accusations by other German papers against colored French troops.

"7. These exaggerated attacks in the German press outside of the Rhinelands have in several cases been refuted by responsible officials (German) and citizens of the Rhinelands. Herr Kohler,

Mayor of Worms; Herr Etschhoff, Police Commissioner of Worms, referring to the Senegalese troops, reports to the Interallied Rhineland High Commission that with the exception of one incident, the Senegalese troops in Worms have not committed any misdemeanor and have been under perfect discipline during their entire stay in Worms.

"Herr Levy from Kreisnach and several Germans have written open letters protesting against what they term unfair exaggerations in the German press against the troops."

General Allen then takes up a number of "gross exaggerations" in the German press and presents denials by Germans themselves of the charges made against the colored troops. His report goes on:

"9. On the other hand, undoubtedly many instances have occurred where women or girls have been assaulted by members of the French colored Colonial troops. See report above as to the official figures. There are undoubtedly cases which are not included in the official figures, due to the natural desire to keep out of obscene notoriety. For example, a case of attempted assault was reported June 14, 1920, from Saarbrücken, which is not included in the French official figures. Some cases will never come to light due to the natural feeling of shame of the women concerned, but they are, in my opinion, cases such as generally occur in any land when soldiery is for a long time quartered upon the population.

"10. The impression gained from contact with and observation of the French colonial troops is that, as a general rule, they are quite orderly and well-behaved. Discipline has a purely relative value and is hardly of the same order as that which we would require. That the discipline of the Senegalese brigade was not always good is established by the incidents which recently occurred at Marseilles, when a part of these troops committed serious infractions of discipline when ordered aboard their transports.

"11. The attitude of certain classes of German women toward the colored troops has been such as to incite trouble. On account of the very unsettled economic conditions and for other causes growing out of the World War, prostitution is abnormally engaged in and many German women of loose character have openly made advances to the colored soldiers as evidenced by numerous love letters and photographs, which are now on file in the official records and which have been sent by German women to colored French soldiers. Several cases have occurred of marriages of German women with French negro soldiers. One German girl of a first class burgher family, her father a very high city functionary of a prominent city in the Rhinelands, recently procured a passport to rejoin her fiance in Marseilles. He was a negro sergeant. Other negro soldiers have had French wives here, and the color line is not regarded either by the French or the Germans as we regard it in America: to keep the white race pure.

"At Ludwigshafen when the Seventh tirailleurs left for Frankfurt, patrols had to be sent out to drive away the German women from the barracks, where they were kissing the colored troops through the window gratings."

His Conclusions.

He draws the following conclusions:

"1. The wholesale atrocities by French negro Colonial troops alleged in the German press, such as the alleged abductions, followed by rape, mutilation, murder and commitment of the bodies of the victims, are false and intended for political propaganda.

"2. A number of cases of * * * [the sort charged] have occurred on the part of French negro Colonial troops in the Rhinelands. These cases have been occasional and in restricted numbers, not general or widespread. The French military authorities have repressed them severely in most cases and have made a very serious effort to stamp the evil out.

"3. As a rule the number of convictions and the thoroughness of the reports of the investigations and trials in-

dicating the very earnest effort of the French trial authorities to do justice and to stamp out the evil by stern repressive measures. That their sentences are often milder than ours would be largely due to extenuating circumstances found in the evidence according to their rules of evidence, which are very different from ours, and to the fact that in general French courts do not punish these crimes as severely as American and English courts do.

"4. The discipline of the Senegalese tirailleurs was not always good, as evidenced by the refusal of some of them to get aboard transports at Marseilles when ordered to Syria."

Here is Commissioner Dreisel's cablegram to the State Department, in which he reports the American protest meeting in Berlin:

"The Secretary of State, Washington: "Sir—Adverting to my dispatch No. 442, of July 5, and to my telegrams Nos. 806 and 807, of July 12, and No. 812, of July 15, I have the honor to transmit herewith a translation of a newspaper account of the so-called American protest meeting against the use by France of colored troops in the occupied Rhineland area, held in Berlin on the evening of July 14. I beg likewise to include a copy of the issue of The European Press (formerly The Continental Times), dated July 9, which contains an article by Rutledge Rutherford announcing the meeting in question.

"This article states that the American speakers were to be Colonel Edwin Emerson, Miss Ray Beveridge, Hermann George Scheffauer, Edith Talbot Scheffauer, Lora Vincent, John De Kay, Rutledge Rutherford and Agatha M. Bullitt. The three last-named persons did not actually appear, however, although messages were read from Messrs. De Kay and Rutherford. Other than these Americans, the only speaker was a German woman from the Rhineland, but messages were read from E. D. Morel, Henri Barbusse, Jean Longuet and others."

"A member of the commission who attended the meeting informs me that the large auditorium of the university was crowded long before the meeting opened and that the audience, composed largely of women, was most enthusiastic. The newspaper account does not, however, give an accurate impression of the tone adopted by the speakers, inasmuch as mention of the bitterly anti-French and anti-American character of the addresses is apparently omitted, whereas it was expression of these sentiments which created the greatest applause. In fact, the meeting took on more the character of a violent chauvinistic gathering than a protest against the black troops.

"Miss Beveridge and Mr. Scheffauer were particularly vehement in their attacks on President Wilson and the United States Government and devoted most of their time to assailing America for her entrance into the war, while Colonel Emerson directed his thrusts chiefly at France. It is interesting to note that Miss Beveridge, who has now spoken more than once on this subject, is invariably introduced as one who has done much for German children by aiding the work of the American Quakers in Germany. The head of the Quaker Mission in Berlin informs me, however, that Miss Beveridge has not now and has never had any connection with their activities, in spite of her repeated efforts to become associated with them, and that her persistence and such misstatements as that referred to above have caused them great embarrassment. "During the course of the meeting, letters were read from Mrs. Bayard Taylor and Professor Thomas C. Hall, but I am inclined to believe that the writers were not acquainted with the circumstances under which the meeting was held."

"ELLIS LORING DREISEL,"

"American Commissioner."

In a telegram dated Jan. 21 last, Ambassador Wallace informed the department that in December the French Army of Occupation totaled about 66,000 men, of whom 16,386 were Moroccans and Algerians and 3,224 Malgaches. He adds that the French Foreign Office has promised additional information on the German charges, and that this information will be forwarded to the department as soon as received.