

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT.

The Negro and the War.

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

The Commercial Appeal states a few facts in regard to the negroes to whom constant misrepresentations are being made about the war.

It is also true that many wild rumors are reported among the negroes until they get the stamp of apparent proof.

The negro soldiers in camp in this country and the negro soldiers in France get exactly the same treatment from the Red Cross as do the white soldiers. They receive the same medical attention; their hospital wards are equipped just as well as the wards of other soldiers; they receive the same rate of pay, the same rations and the same sort of clothing.

The white women of Memphis are making vast quantities of hospital garments, bandages, wound packs and socks for the soldiers in France. These garments are distributed among negro soldiers just as they are distributed among white soldiers.

If there is a negro soldier suffering from a wound in a French hospital the white people of the Red Cross want that negro to be cared for just as well as if his skin were as white as the stars.

This is a negro's war just as well as a white man's war. This is a war of every American citizen.

When the negro soldier strikes at a German he is defending his home and the home of the neighboring white man, and when the white man strikes at the German soldier he is trying to protect the cabin of the humblest colored man just as much as he is attempting to protect the home of the plantation owner.

Colored negro soldiers in Europe have already given a good example.

It was reported at first that the negroes are helping to load and unload ships, and so are the white men. The negroes are helping to build railroads in France, and so are the white men; and the negro is on the firing line at Toul, just as are the white men.

The government of the United States makes the same allowance for the negro soldier's wife or child that it does for the white soldier's wife or child.

In all the wars of the United States, from the Revolutionary war down to the Mexican trouble, the negro soldier has borne himself well. There is equal opportunity for a display of splendid service in this war.

Another thing: There are probably 50,000 negro soldiers in France. They are fighting and they are dying. What are the negroes at home going to do about it? What can they do? They can do exactly as the white people are doing. They can get busy and keep busy. They can produce food crops and cotton crops. They can do service on the railroads and in the munitions factories.

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Those negroes in Europe will be saved just as the lives of the white soldiers will be saved. For every white man and every negro in America doing something useful every day will be helpful in bringing the war to a successful end—and the only successful end will be a victory for the Stars and Stripes.

The negroes at home should so conduct themselves that they may be sharers in that victory. Whenever a colored man sees a young black man idling his time away he should admonish the young man, and, if the young man persists in idleness, he should be reported. That is exactly what is being done in regard to white men.

The French armies have 250,000 Senegalese troops. These men are pure-blooded Africans. They have rendered excellent service. Our American negro soldiers will find that already their African brothers have set for them in France a standard of military efficiency.

Colored Officers to Lead.

From the New York Sun.

It will be interesting to note the progress in France of the Three Hundred and Sixty-seventh infantry, a negro organization that has been training at Camp Upton. This unit, it is said, will be the first colored regiment in France having negro commissioned officers leading its companies. The Fifteenth and other negro commands in the past have always been completely officered by white men.

All company commanders, except the headquarters company, and all the lieutenants of the Three Hundred and Sixty-seventh infantry, are colored men. There are eighty-seven negro commissioned officers in the regiment, all graduates of the negro officers' training school at Camp Dodge, Ia. The white officers of the regiment are Col. James A. Moss, its commander, and the field staff, consisting of lieutenant colonel, three majors, each commanding a battalion; the regimental adjutant, supply officer and commander of headquarters company.

Colonel Moss, the commanding officer, is a veteran of many Philippine campaigns and a recognized authority on infantry tactics. He has commanded negro troops before, having been in charge of the Twenty-fourth infantry, regular army, for several years. It is said that the Three Hundred and Sixty-seventh infantry was twenty-five men over war strength recently, giving the command a total of 3,724 men. Its record at the camp was a good one. The work of the negro soldiers on the target ranges was publicly commended by an army ordnance expert, and under the circumstances their further progress will be of particular interest.