

## *Talks with Generals in Paris*

*Thursday, August 23*

The next day, we enplaned for Paris, returning via Corsia, Elba, Marseilles, etc.—the same route we came by to Naples from Paris. At Marseilles we had engine failure shortly after taking off, and we returned to the airdrome, entered another plane, and arrived in Paris late at night.

Spent the next two or three days in Paris sight-seeing and renewing our talks to American officers. Visited with various Generals at the George V Hotel.

One General said: "I have seen looting in China in 1924. Nothing, however, like Berlin has been looted by the Russians—they not only commandeered the rolling stock, but also took up the rails."

Another American General lamented the unfortunate case of a thoughtless young G.I. who, on surrender, locked up hundreds of German prisoners in boxcars without ventilation. When the cars were opened, it was found that 165 Germans had been smothered to death. The same General said that during the German surrender it was impossible to handle all of the prisoners who gave themselves up to the Americans; that in one day forty German Generals came in and surrendered to him personally.

One of the Generals said: "Germany is finished. They will never start another War in our lifetime. Why are we dilly-dallying about the future? The people of Germany and all conquered Europe are hungry. We must make up our minds what we wish to do. If we want isolation, we should have it. If we want to mingle in European politics, we should have a foreign policy—America never has had a consistent foreign policy."

On Saturday we witnessed the pageant, parties, etc., commemorating the first anniversary of the liberation of France. The French were all having a gala day.

Went to the American Finance office and had all our European money changed back to American currency. This had to be done, as occupied currency would not be honored in the U. S.

Visited the Paris Post Exchange in the Seine sector, conducted for the American G.I.s. Here was a large store almost resembling one of our huge department stores—thousands of our soldiers were buying American goods. We were each given permission to buy one Swiss watch, sold by the Swiss manufacturer to the American Army at manufacturing cost.

At 11 Saturday evening the bells of Paris tolled for one-half hour commemorating the freedom of the city.

### *Sunday, August 26*

Breakfasted with Major General R. Smith, a high-school classmate, and chatted about old times and mutual friends.

Went to Mass and then visited Notre Dame. Went to the Cathedral Madeleine where Mass was being said at 4 for American soldiers.

## ***The Flight Home***

Our plane took off from Orley Field for America at 8 p.m.

Had an uneventful flight to Santa Maria in the Azores, though we encountered severe headwinds which made us late. Hopping from the Azores to Stevensville, Newfoundland, we flew another 8½ hours against severe headwinds, arriving at 2 p.m.

When we took off for Stevensville we were told our plane was going to Washington instead of New York, much to the disgust of the New York passengers. The reason was, we were informed, that there was a staff officer aboard who had effected a change to the Washington destination.