

JAZZ BAND CREATED BIG STIR IN FRANCE

Paris Music Lovers Ignored World's Masters to Hear Plantation Melodies

And Now Lieutenant Jim Europe Brings Them Here and Scores Encore

Lieutenant Jim Europe is in town with his colored jazz band. The story of that band and its adventures overseas is an American epic. Here are just a few highlights.

One day last summer there was a great band concert held in the Tuilleries Gardens in Paris for the benefit of the families wounded by Big Bertha. Thirty thousand people paid \$5 admission. The elite of the world's military musicians were there—the band of the French Republic Guard, with more than 100 members; the British Grenadiers, with nearly as many; the Royal Italian Band with ninety. And with these famous organizations was one other—a band of American colored boys, gathered together only a year before at Camp Dix. And as Lieutenant Jim Europe says with that broad delightful drollery that shines in his beaming brown face: "Why people left those wonderful bands and came over to listen to us, I don't know! I was scared to death. I thought, well, at last they got me; they're going to knock me off my perch. I said to my boys, now listen; you can't make as much noise as those bands, so for heaven's sake don't stop. Just be a lil' sweet soft lullaby band."



LIEUTENANT JIM EUROPE

Jazz Made 'Em Wild "We opened up with 'Plantation Echoes,' he said. "That ends with 'Dixie.' You ought to have seen the crowd. They threw up their hats and carried on like crazy people. We looked over at those other bands. All you could see over there were angry looks. The crowd was all wild to hear that jazz stuff of ours. No, I don't see why anybody should leave those lovely bands to listen to us."

Jim Europe's "hell fighters" play, or have seen Jim Europe smile and sway on his limber pegs as he rides that tumultuous intoxication of roaring, sparkling melody, you'll know why the French half Germans were black with flying hats. From that day the band of the 369th United States Infantry became the most famous band in the world.

The story of Jim Europe's jazz band, told in his own words, ripples with the high spirits and mellow humor of the colored race. Everybody knew Jim was marked for glory when he was taken down in old Mobile on Washington's Birthday in '18. Before the war he led Vernon Castle's orchestra at Castle House in New York, and wrote music for some of the Broadway shows. He enlisted as a private in a machine-gun company and was sent to Camp Dix. He was commissioned a first lieutenant. They soon got Jim to work organizing the regimental band.

Get \$10,000 Donation "It costs money to build up a first-class band, and Dan Reid, the tinplate king, came across with \$10,000 to help make a band that would out do the King Jax in Teuton hearts. Jim traveled all over the country gathering his talent. He got his reed section from Porto Rico, picked up his brass from Hampton Tuskegee, Wilberforce—wherever he could find it. The band of the 369th Infantry soon became the talk of Camp Dix. When they left for overseas the life of the cantonment was gone.

Jim Europe is not only a boss musician but a first-class fighting man, and the army for some time couldn't make up its mind which way to use him. On the way over, in December, 1917, he was transferred back to his machine-gun company. Things looked bad for the band. But by a lucky chance E. H. Southern and Winthrop Ames passed through San Nazaire and heard the band play.

Doing Stevedore Work "I was doing stevedore work," says Jim. "Regular Simon Legree stuff. Everybody was just then. Southern and Ames heard us and said we ought to go to the new rest center at Aix-les-Bains. I was retransferred to the band. We played there for several weeks. When our regiment was sent to the trenches the soldiers and citizens of Aix sent a petition to General Pershing asking him to keep the band there. That's the chief trouble Jim's band has

always had. When anybody hears it they want it to stick around for the rest of their lives. It took General Gouraud to get the band back to the front, once Paris heard it.

"In March, 1918," says Jim, "we went up to the trenches in the Argonne sector, and I was transferred to my machine-gun company. By the way, I was the first negro officer to command troops in the trenches. I stayed in the trenches from March to July. Then they re-transferred me back to the band. We were sent to Paris to play for the Allied conference arranged by General Wilson. We stayed six weeks. After the leader of the Republican Guard heard us play jazz he asked for some of our music. I showed it to him. He wanted to know how we got our jazz effects. 'I don't see that on the paper,' he said. 'It isn't there I told him. You have to train your boys to get that stuff.'"

"Those were great days in Paris," says Jim, with a reminiscent grin. "As I walked around gazing in French, with every one in the world going crazy over our jazz stuff, I felt like President Wilson. He wanted us back at the front. We were in his army, you see. He's a great fighting man, he's had all his arms shot away and half of his legs."

"It's a Fighting Band Jim Europe's band is a fighting band as hard as anything. The French bandmasters thought we had trick instruments and then cry in surprise: 'Memento que les autres.' The same as the others." You see we get those special effects with a roll of the tongue and blowing the instrument about twice as hard as usual.

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negro voice, one can see in his eyes what that comradship with their French companions in arms meant. It runs this way: "We may be attacked now at any moment. We are now in the trenches in the Argonne sector, and I was transferred to my machine-gun company. By the way, I was the first negro officer to command troops in the trenches. I stayed in the trenches from March to July. Then they re-transferred me back to the band. We were sent to Paris to play for the Allied conference arranged by General Wilson. We stayed six weeks. After the leader of the Republican Guard heard us play jazz he asked for some of our music. I showed it to him. He wanted to know how we got our jazz effects. 'I don't see that on the paper,' he said. 'It isn't there I told him. You have to train your boys to get that stuff.'"

"Nobility will look back. Nobody will turn back one step. 'You will have only one thought. Kill. Kill many, until they have enough of it. That is why your general tells you, that assault you will break it. And it will be a beautiful day.' GOURAUD."

Just in Time for Battle Jim Europe took up the tale. "We got back to our regiment September 30, just in time for the big battle in Champagne, between Verdun and Rheims. We were in the trenches. The Germans were with the artillery, but believe me, there were plenty of misspent shells falling around. Three of our bandmen were killed. We stayed six weeks. After the leader of the Republican Guard heard us play jazz he asked for some of our music. I showed it to him. He wanted to know how we got our jazz effects. 'I don't see that on the paper,' he said. 'It isn't there I told him. You have to train your boys to get that stuff.'"

Then we went to a so-called rest center. We were in the trenches. I was the first negro officer to command troops in the trenches. I stayed in the trenches from March to July. Then they re-transferred me back to the band. We were sent to Paris to play for the Allied conference arranged by General Wilson. We stayed six weeks. After the leader of the Republican Guard heard us play jazz he asked for some of our music. I showed it to him. He wanted to know how we got our jazz effects. 'I don't see that on the paper,' he said. 'It isn't there I told him. You have to train your boys to get that stuff.'"

"We were all set for a big attack on November 12, but the armistice came along. Believe me, if that attack had

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When Sissie repeats it, in his mellow

come off we'd all have been killed sure enough. We were the only negro troops to go with the army of occupation, and the first of the Allied troops to reach the Rhine. As we went along we saw what we saw. We have been up against wire entanglements five kilometers deep. Artillery could have blasted at that stuff all day without breaking it up. All the wire connected with cables charged with electricity. Roads all mined. They put us in front to head the triumphal march to the Rhine. Just after we got over one bit of road they stopped all the others while that road blew up.

Worst Hardships of War "We kept on walking and we got to Biodesheim on the Rhine, south of Neu Breisach. We got there one afternoon stayed there walking up and down and watching the fish. It was there we underwent the worst hardships of the war. Biodesheim had a population of about eighty people and couldn't live there. We had no tents, we just lived out of doors and slept under trees or any-thing. We lost about eight of our men through exposure. It rained all the time. Then by and by we did some more walk-

ing—we walked back to Belfort, and took those wagons, hemming and cheating back to Brest."

"What did you boys think of the French colored troops?" Lieutenant Europe was asked.

Wonderful Fighters "Oh, those Senegalese—they're terrible fellows!" said Jim, grinning. "Man, those boys are blue black! They're wonderful fighters, but they have to have wine. No champagne, no fighting! They said when they were put in to hold Rheims. They gave those boys a bottle of champagne at every meal, and they kept the Germans out of Rheims."

"The Germans were scared to death of those fellows. When they saw us coming they thought we were the same. When we got into Germany they ran and shut up their houses. I was a week in Biodesheim before I knew any one lived there."

"The French are not only the greatest fighters in the world; they're the greatest eaters. Everything you see a potato loaded down with fat food. They have nerves like steel. No matter how

thick the shells are falling, those French officers will get out a little table and put a napkin on it and go on eating course after course. When their friends are killed they shrug their shoulders and say, 'C'est la guerre.' If you tell a Frenchman the Germans have some red wine they'll take that position sure. The French Government sees that their soldiers have red wine first and ammunition second.

Can't Beat French "I don't believe in this bravery business. It's your pride. If a man was scared to death, with fellows like those French round him he just couldn't leave them. You see them in Paris, all per-fumed, with their hair slicked back and those blue gloves with white linings, and then you go up to the front and see the same fellows laying down in the mire quite unconcerned."

"No, you can't beat those people. When the Germans were coming on, taking town after town, the French would keep on saying, 'Is he passport pas?' Why, they're passing every moment, I would say, and the Frenchman would shrug and say, 'Ca m'est egal!' It doesn't matter. They won't take

Noyon!—The next day they'd take Noyon, and I'd say, 'Well, how no passport pas—they won't take Bapaume.' Then they take Bapaume, and the Frenchman says, 'That's all right, they won't take Montdidier—his ne passport pas.' You can't beat that stuff!"

Hess Shooting Cleared Patrolman's Dying Statement Admits Drinking Before Saloon Row

Mystery surrounding the shooting of James J. Hess, a patrolman of the Fifteenth street and Snyder avenue Station, in the saloon of Sperandio Diglio, Clarion and Dickinson streets, was cleared today by the patrolman's anti-mortem statement, read at an inquest before Coroner Knight. Hess died in St. Agnes's Hospital last Friday.

In the statement Hess said he received the wound in a struggle with Diglio for the revolver which had been taken from him a short time before the shooting, because he was partly intoxicated. Witnesses confirmed the statement by their testimony.

Diglio was held to await the action of the Grand Jury.

According to the statement, Hess and

two other patrolmen were "out on a party." The patrolmen entered the saloon and demanded wine. Diglio refused to serve them because they were in uniform. An argument arose and Hess, who was in the saloon, noticed Hess's condition, took the revolver from the policeman's coat so that he would not lose it and turned it over to Diglio for safe keeping.

Hess and the other patrolmen then left the place. Later, Hess staggered back and demanded the revolver. Diglio refused to give it to him and when Hess attempted to take it from Diglio the weapon exploded.

MISSOURI AT NAVY YARD Battleship Returning Here After Discharging 2500 Overseas Troops

The U. S. S. Missouri passed Rye Island, inbound, at 7:15 a. m. today and is expected to reach the navy yard sometime this afternoon. She is one of the battleships which have been pressed into transport service by the government, arriving yesterday at Hoboken from France with 2500 American troops.

The soldiers were all discharged at New York, and the vessel is now returning here for further orders, this being the base from which she operates.

Advertisement for Lit Brothers clothing store, featuring women's gloves, hats, and suits. Includes prices and store location.

Advertisement for Misses' & Women's Prize Offerings in Misses' & Women's Attractive New Apparel. Features various clothing items with prices and descriptions.

Advertisement for Women's Distinctively Smart Low Shoes. Features various shoe styles with prices and descriptions.

Advertisement for The Beauty of the New Waists. Features various waist styles with prices and descriptions.

Advertisement for Men's \$6 Tub Silk Shirts. Features a shirt with price and description.

Advertisement for Women's and Children's Hosiery & Underwear. Features various hosiery items with prices and descriptions.

Advertisement for Wonderful Purchase of \$4 Ready-to-Wear Hats. Features various hat styles with prices and descriptions.

Advertisement for Economy Special \$7 Baby Crib. Features a baby crib with price and description.

Advertisement for Don't Miss the "C. E-Z" Sale. Features a lamp and self-lighting attachment with price and description.

Advertisement for The House That Heppe Built. Features a Duo-Art Pianola-Piano with price and description.

Advertisement for Captivating Fashions in Girls' Spring Apparel. Features various girls' clothing items with prices and descriptions.

Advertisement for Men, Just the Styles You Want in New Spring Clothes. Features various men's clothing items with prices and descriptions.