

A Rainbow Led the Yanks to Victory

I do set my bow in the sky and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.—Genesis ix. 13.

"By many signs is the divine power seen in earthly things . . . so that the army was encouraged much more and more eagerly desirous to face danger," wrote Herodotus, twenty-four centuries ago in retelling the legend of the supernatural re-inforcements that came to the aid of the hard pressed Greeks on the Delphic plain.

Agas have passed since the star-flecked cloud from whose ghostly depths swelled a majestic song of triumph settled down over the masts of the waiting Greek ships at Salamis and since the flaming cross in the sky guided Constantine the Great to victory, but still the supernatural auguries seemingly appear to lead armies to success.

Occasional letters from France have brought references to the unfilling appearance of a brilliant rainbow just before the Rainbow division of the American army went into battle. The letters, sometimes fraught with something akin to awe, stated that the men of the Rainbow division had come to regard the heavenly phenomenon as an auspicious omen, a portent of victory.

Col. Frank L. Travis, commander of the Kansas ammunition train, which was included in the Rainbow division, affirms these reports of the strange recurrence of the rainbow and of the manner in which the men of the division came to regard it. Colonel Travis is now state superintendent of insurance in Kansas, having returned home after a physical breakdown caused by the strain of the war.

"The rainbow appeared to us before virtually every engagement in which we participated," said Colonel Travis. "At first the men looked upon it as a rather remarkable coincidence, then they began to attach a more serious importance to it. Finally at the close of the war it had become a sort of superstition, yes, something more than that, a spiritual augury of victory."

"It was early in the spring when we first noticed it. The division had received a hard pounding up in the Bacarat sector and was awaiting an attack. The rainbow appeared and the attack failed."

The Rainbow at Chateau Thierry.
"I shall always remember the rainbow that we saw the day we moved up into the Chateau Thierry fight. It was a wonderful sight—a great rainbow of extraordinary beauty and one end of it touched the earth not more than two hundred yards away from us, fairly bathing the spot in a vari-colored light. Well, everybody knows the outcome of the Chateau Thierry operations."

"Again, before St. Mihiel, that first operation carried out solely by American troops, we saw a magnificent rainbow. By that time all the men of the division had become imbued with the feeling that the rainbow was the sign by which we like Constantine, were to conquer. There could be no doubting the men of the 42d."

"When we went into the Argonne the rainbow again heralded victory for us. And we saw it over the Meuse and

on the advance toward Sedan. Why, you could not have persuaded a lot of the men that it was not a supernatural omen of success. They say that a fine rainbow dipped into the Rhine the day the boys went across into Germany. I know they came to look for the rainbow every time that we were due to go into battle. And when the rainbow would appear, there would be remarks going up from the fellows that were going to win sure."

"They were a bit reverent toward it, too, near the last, though some joked about it at first. A soldier gets to feel a sort of spiritual dependence when in battle. I don't know what it is or particularly what causes it, but I know that men feel a little more inclined to look for signs and portents that are not earthly in character. Perhaps it is the strain and hardship, the pain and loss of sleep that makes the imagination rather feverish so that men see unusual meanings in things that otherwise would pass as mere coincidences. And, maybe there is something deeper, something supernatural to such things. I don't profess to know. But a lot of those men who fought in the Rainbow division are convinced that we were guided to victory by a something greater than man."

In a letter from her husband received by Mrs. John Carlisle Johnson, wife of an infantry officer in the Rainbow division, the statement is made that "The rainbow has been to us a vision and an omen only equaled by Jeanne d'Arc of France."

A Line Officer's Letter.
"In every successful attack that we have seen in I have seen a rainbow in the sky," says the writer of the letter. "The only time our division did not make its objective was in the first day's fight at Cote de Chatillon. The next morning the rainbow appeared and we smashed through the 'Klein-hilde Stellung' with Iowa and Alabama troops in the lead. I saw the rainbow in Champagne at day break July 15 and 'they did not pass.' I saw it again at the Ourcq the last of July and there we finished that task and the next day we captured the positions that kept us from Fismes."

"I think you would find that faith in our omen in the hearts of every one of the few men and officers left to tell the tale. You know that I am not a believer in signs, usually, and in omens, but that one thing has done more to convince me that we were led by an unseen hand than any other thing. The men don't talk about it much, but when the rainbow appears you can hear a murmur go down the line. As we came over the last big hill and started down into the Rhine valley we saw the rainbow, and instantly you could hear the shout go down the line:

"There she is," and "Well, boys, we're here."

Many Similar Instances in History.
The legend of the rainbow preceding the division that bore its name into battle probably will go down in history along with those other mysterious phenomena that have influenced men in battle from the Angels of Mons to the song-filled cloud above Salamis.

Herodotus relates three instances, and imparts a measure of credence to them, of where supernatural reinforcements appeared in behalf of the Greeks. One of these was at Marathon, where the revived Theseus, wielding a brazen club, led the vanguard of the Grecian forces against the Persians. Again he tells of the white figures that blazed along the Delphic plains when earthquake and fire led the charge from Olympus. The night before the great naval battle at Salamis, which was to end forever the Persian dream of dominion over Hellas, so relates Herodotus, a great cloud studded with stars and vivid with lance lights, settled slowly down upon the masts of the Greek ships. Out of the cloud came a tremendous song of triumph, high and clear and strong. The Greeks, previously fearful of the odds that they must face on the morrow, took heart and the victory they won the next day is one of the undying feats of arms.

Then there are the Great White Brethren of Macaulay's poem, "The Battle of Lake Regillus," a poem founded on a legend that long existed among Roman fighting men. The White Brethren fought beside Aulus, the dictator, when the armies of the Thirty Latin cities were sorely pressing the Romans. So runs the legend as told in the poem:

So spake he and was buckling
Tighter black Auster's band,
When he was aware of a princely pair
That rode at his right hand.
So like they were no mortal
Might one from other know;
White as snow their armor was,
Their steeds as white as snow.
Never on earthly anvil
Did such rare armor gleam
And never did such gallant steeds
Drink from an earthly stream.
The Romans, the legend says, trembled and grew pale at first, but the white horsemen reassured the legionaries with the statement:

And for the right we come to fight
Before the ranks of Rome.
As the strange horsemen couched
Their spears the foemen grew affrighted
And Aulus shouted:
Rome, to the charge!
The gods who live forever,
Are on our side today.

The Great White Brethren were declared to have been Castor and Pollux, twin sons of Jupiter and Leda, whose names now are given to the two brightest stars in the constellation Gemini. In the verses is the prophecy: Back comes the chief in triumph
Who in the hour of fight
Hath seen the Great White Brethren
In harness on his right.
Safe comes the ship to haven
Through billows and through gales
If once the Great White Brethren
Sit shining on the sails.

Even the most matter of fact histories record the vision of the flaming cross that appeared before the hesitant Constantine and his legions before Constantine resolved to risk battle for the domination of the Roman world. Outnumbered greatly, Constantine sat upon his horse, pondering, when in the eastern sky there appeared a great, fiery cross and in

his ears was whispered the message "By this sign conquer." Constantine, reassured and confident, dared battle and won. Moreover, he became one of the great figures of history, a man whose power in time came to be felt nearly throughout the known world of his era.

St. James and Cortez's Army.

It is strange that in the plundering, gold-crazed ranks of Cortez there should have appeared what men of that time claimed to have been a heavenly visit. That stout and honest old Spanish cavalier, Hernan Diaz, relates the story and Macaulay, ever alert for a sign of the supernatural, gives it to us. It seems that a chaplain of Cortez, writing about thirty years after the conquest of Mexico, first told the tale and that others of the Cortez expedition, Hernan Diaz included, took it up. According to the tale St. James, astride a gray charger, suddenly dashed to the forefront of the battle when the Castilian adventurers were being pressed back. Before the mighty blows of the saint the Indians, so the story goes, fell thick and fast and the Spaniards, regaining their courage, leaped forward and won the day.

One of the more recent of these supernatural phenomena of battle was that related by the Serbians after the battle of Prilep. The story, too, has official authority for it is told by General Mischitch, commander of the Serbs at the Prilep engagement. The Serbs awaited at a foot of a hill below the castle of Marko for an order to charge. Their artillery was battering away at the fortress.

"At the first cannon shots we noticed an effervescence among our troops and soon afterwards we heard them shouting frantically and saw them running like wolves straight toward the castle," General Mischitch says. "The commanders in vain urged the men to stop. My blood froze. I closed my eyes. Disastrous defeat! My own degradation was certain."

"In a little while our artillery ceased firing. A few minutes later we saw the Serbian colors floating on the donjon of Marko's castle. The Turks were fleeing in great disorder."

"I praised my heroes for their brave conduct, but reproached them bitterly for their disobedience. At my last admonishing words I heard from thousands of soldiers in majestic unison:

"Kraljivitch Marko commanded us all the time, calling to us 'Forward!' Did you not see him on his famous steed?"

This Kraljivitch Marko, whom the victorious soldiers asserted came to their aid, was a famous Serbian prince, dead five centuries since. The legend was handed down from generation to generation that Marko had promised to return and lead the Serbs once the time was ripe for driving the Turks from Serbia. Many Serbian officers and men, after the battle of Prilep, told of seeing the heroic figure of the prince on a white charger, climbing the hill at the van of the Serbian troops.

Ghostly Bowmen of Agincourt.

The story of the ghostly bowmen of Agincourt, "the Angels of Mons," who came to the aid of the beleaguered British rear guard, is one of the most widely known legends of the recent war. With it has been told again and again, when the veterans of '14 and '15 gather, the story of "The White Comrade of the Yser" who, so wounded Frenchmen said, came to soothe their pain and bind up their wounds. The foundation for the "Angels of Mons" is now known—a British fiction writer started it in a story in a London newspaper and the feverish imagination of a war-stricken people took it up. But nevertheless there have been soldiers of the "first hundred thousand" who insisted that they saw the angel host sweep down upon the German hordes and fling them reeling back.

Strangely sound these stories in the very materialistic world of science today. Yet, they prove, as an English writer on the subject says, that "Marko in the mists is not so old, even if history is." Of what good would be the applying of the acid test of historic criticism to them? Is it not better to agree with Ruskin:

"There is something in the near coming of the shadow of death, something in the devoted fulfillment of mortal duty, that reveals the real God, though darkly."

PUEBLO PLANS MEMORIAL.
PUEBLO, Colo., March 28.—If plans recently inaugurated by the American Valley chapter, D. A. R. memorialize, a portion of Twenty-ninth street will be marked with rows of elm trees on either side of the street and be named Victory street in honor of Pueblo county soldiers. The street is one that motor tourists use in reaching the city and automobile arches with appropriate inscriptions are planned at either end of the elm rows.

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WHY THE BONDS SHOULD CARRY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES IN VOTER'S PAMPHLET

Argument in Favor of Question for Special Election Is Filed With Secretary of State.

A clear-cut statement of the purposes of the proposed \$5,000,000 reconstruction bond issue is made by Senator B. L. Eddy and the other members of the committee, who submitted an argument for publication in the voters' pamphlet in support of the necessary constitutional amendment authorizing the bond issue. The argument which has been filed with the secretary of state says:

Senate joint resolution No. 25 provides amending the constitution of the state so as to authorize the issuance of bonds not exceeding \$5,000,000, to be known as reconstruction bonds of the state of Oregon. The details as to the issuance of these bonds and the use of the money thereby obtained are embraced in senate bill 266, which is printed elsewhere in this pamphlet. Senate joint resolution No. 25 and senate bill 266 are therefore companion measures, and both should be supported by the voters.

Conditions in the industrial world may arise within the next year or two causing many men to be unemployed. The natural tendency of men out of work is to listen to anarchistic agitators and state and municipal authorities unite in urging that it is of the greatest importance to make available a fund such as is now proposed, in case of need. The state board of control is given the discretion, under senate bill 266, to issue the bonds when conditions shall demand.

Bonds for Three Purposes.
The bonds are to be applicable to three different purposes, namely: First, a building program for the construction of various public buildings, all of which are now needed, at a total expenditure of not to exceed \$2,352,500; second, to land settle-

ment in providing farm homes for returning soldiers and others at an expenditure of not to exceed \$647,500; and third, to land reclamation at an expenditure not exceeding \$2,000,000, and this to be expended only in case the government shall appropriate a like sum for reclamation of Oregon lands.

Senate bill 266, printed elsewhere in this pamphlet, lists the public buildings which may be constructed. It is well known that the present penitentiary is wholly unfit, and is considered a disgrace to the state. The proposed reconstruction hospital at Portland is intended primarily for operation under the jurisdiction of the state industrial accident commission and the medical school of the University of Oregon, and its chief service will be in providing facilities for physical reconstruction of men injured in the industries of the state, and, in case of need, for disabled soldiers. This institution will do a great work for the soldiers of industry, similar to that which the enlightened governments of the world are now doing for their defenders in war. Every one acquainted with the state educational institutions knows that they have outgrown their housing facilities and there is a crying need for supplying new buildings.

A comprehensive plan of land settlement is of tremendous importance to our commonwealth in these days, and such plans are being provided throughout the world, primarily for soldiers, but also for others. The United States government will doubtless cooperate with the state. Good farm lands are everywhere rising in price and there are many men who have the muscle, brains and industry

to make successful farmers who are unable to get a foothold. The land settlement program will give them a chance, and will not eventually cost the state anything, because these lands are to be sold and not given away, and the money provided for this purpose will become a revolving fund, to be used again and again. As to the \$2,000,000 to be made available for reclamation of lands, none of this money is to be used except to meet a like expenditure by the United States of America, and the importance to the state of Oregon of having her arid and other waste lands reclaimed and turned into productive homes is too obvious to need any argument. This money will also come back to the state."

LOS ANGELES CHILDREN ARE PATRIOTIC

LOS ANGELES, March 28.—School children of Los Angeles purchased \$17,000 Thrift Stamps, totalling \$204,450 maturity value, during 1918, according to a report just made by Miss Grace M. Mogle, in charge of War Savings work in the Los Angeles city school district. The report of the activities of the students does not cover a period of three months during which the schools were closed on account of the epidemic of Spanish influenza, when practically no sales of stamps were made. Miss Mogle said, however, that with the new year renewed interest was taken in the campaign.

From month to month, the report says, 140,278 students purchased stamps; 45,219 thrift cards were completed and 30,964 students completed cards.



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