

## GRATEFUL HOMAGE OF FRANCE TO U.S. SOLDIERS EXPRESSED BY MARSHAL PETAIN

(Editor's Note: The following story on Marshal Petain's speech at Suresnes, France, is from the "Matin" of Paris.)

PARIS.—Since the War of Secession, America, each year, has consecrated one day to the memory of her soldiers and sailors who have given their lives for their country. Yesterday, on the other side of the Atlantic, it was "Memorial Day." With certain pomp and not without emotion, France took her part in the homage rendered to thousands of "Doughboys" who had fallen on our fields of battle.

In the country, in the American cemeteries along the front; in the civilian cemeteries of the towns where American soldiers are buried; and in the Parisian metropolis, moving ceremonies took place. The civil authorities, the army, patriotic societies and the people in general celebrated everywhere, together with the representatives and delegations of a friendly power, the memory of the Americans who had given their lives in the course of the great war. Their modest graves had been decorated with the American and French flags and there were flowers and wreaths in profusion.

### Day Assumes Consecration.

At the American cemetery of Suresnes, situated at the foot of Mount Valerien (one of the series of forts that surround Paris) where more than 1,200 American soldiers are buried, Memorial day assumed a most imposing character. The ambassador of the United States presided over the exercises, and Marshal Petain spoke in the name of France and of the army.

Thousands of French men and women, all the American colony of Paris and delegates from the patriotic societies made the pious pilgrimage. Long before the hour fixed for the commemorative ceremonies the throng which had gathered passed silently before the little wooden crosses, painted white and decorated with the American and French colors.

On each grave flowers, from the beautiful and exquisite roses of France down to the most simple flowers of the fields had been carefully arranged.

From a pedestal covered with verdure, a majestic statue, the work of the sculptor John Davidson, representing a "Doughboy" in battle array, rose proudly. Before this monument a platform had been erected, framed by two huge masts from which fluttered the American and French flags.

**Distinguished Group Assembles.**  
Here were grouped a little after 2:30, Mr. Hugh C. Wallace, ambassador of the United States; Lord Derby,

ambassador of England; Marshal Petain, representing the government and the army; Colonel Mott, American military attaché; Bishop Darlington, of Pennsylvania; General Dessteller, representing Marshal Foch; General Berdoulat, military governor of Paris; the Marquis de Chambrun, descendant of Lafayette; numerous French and American officers; the members of the "Alliance Americaine," an association formed from the descendants of Frenchmen who took part in the war for independence; delegations from "Souvenir Français," from the society of former combatants, etc.

A guard of honor formed from American and French soldiers was stationed near the monument.

When the bugles had sounded "To Arms," and the band had played the French and American anthems, after prayers for the dead read by the Rev. Mr. Beckman, Mr. Hugh C. Wallace delivered an eloquent discourse from which we have taken this passage:

"This is the day when America celebrates the memory of her dead. Of all the days of the year this day had been reserved to honour the memory of those who have died that our country might live. From one end of the country to the other the people unite today in decorating the cemeteries with all the flowers of springtime."

We have undertaken today this pious pilgrimage in France, for in this place also our soldiers sleep their last sleep. They came to the number of two million for the defense of civilization; they fought side by side with their valiant companions in arms of France and England, and they were victorious."

But thousands of them fell in the struggle; they rest here before us in this sacred ground. There is no greater honour, for a man, than to die, his arms in his hand, for the defense of right. There is no greater glory for a country than to give day to her sons, such as those."

Mr. Wallace finished by thanking the "Souvenir Français" who had decorated the graves, the French government which had taken part in the celebration of Memorial day, in sending as its representative Marshal Petain, "the great soldier who commanded the Armies of France in the hour of final triumph."

### Marshal Petain Speaks.

Marshal Petain, who wore only the French "Medaille Militaire" and the American war cross, stepped out from the group of official personages in order to pronounce the following words:

"Mr. Ambassador: "Before these sa-

cred mounds, which mark the place of repose of your compatriots fallen on our soil, the former Commander-in-Chief of the French Army, speaking in the name of the government of the republic, bows with emotion and with respect."

"In accordance with your national custom, inaugurated by the great President Lincoln, and carried out by you on French soil, we are going to decorate, with you, the graves of your heroes, fallen for justice and for the emancipation and independence of so many peoples oppressed or threatened."

"Those who, on the other side of the ocean, mourn their absent ones, knowing that they died for a holy cause in their sorrow derive a great consolation from that. The affection of France offers to them yet another."

"Your dear departed sleep in a country to which they were traditionally united, which had formerly contributed to the freeing of their native land, and had therefore been cherished by them as almost a second fatherland."

"The soldiers of right who hastened from America at the hour when the fate of the world was being decided, do not rest in a land of exile, and with equal devotion, France will render homage to the tomb of her allies as to those of her own children."

"Brothers in Arms."

"Brothers in arms, enveloped by the same glory of a common sacrifice—Heroes, whose youth has come to find here its goal and its laurels. I salute you in the name of your French comrades, I salute you in the name of all France, victorious and forever grateful."

The American band then played "Nearer My God To Thee," the hymn which the passengers of the Lusitania sang when torpedoed by the Germans.

After the guard had fired a salute, and the bugler had picked out melancholy notes by which, according to custom, the burial of American soldiers is marked, the Ambassadors, Marshall Petain, and their suites, visited the graves.

Shortly afterwards the French troops rendered military honours to their brothers in arms, by passing in review before the cemetery.

Our special correspondents telegraph that everywhere throughout France Memorial day has been fittingly celebrated.

At the American cemetery at Romagne

## WARNING

It keeps your hands regular do not use soaps containing acids or mineral laxatives: just try KÖRDLAX: safe, gentle, whitening. Best and purest soap obtainable at your druggist everywhere. Kördlax is relied for many ailments including: headache, toothache, dizziness, belching, gas, heartburn, indigestion, rheumatism, neuralgia, mental and physical dullness.

"Mr. Ambassador: "Before these sa-

ne, where 23,961 Americans are buried, on Monday, July 5. Come and enjoy the hospitality of the day. Please bring a well-filled basket.

ence to four years in the Federal prison at Atlanta, Ga., and fined \$1,000. His wife was sentenced to the woman's prison for two years.

At Havre, in the Cemetery of St. Marie, detachments of French troops rendered the honours.

A large number of people were gathered in the portion of the cemetery "Kerfonten" at Brest, which is set apart for the graves of Americans.

Superb wreaths had been placed on the graves and various addresses were given.

Similar ceremonies took place at Lorient, Saint-Nazaire, Bordeaux, Dijon, Verdun, Chateau-Thierry, Châlons, Langres, Hericourt, Lambeaupac, le Mans, Savenay, as well as in all the American cemeteries along the front.

## Masonic Calendar

Thursday, July 1—Wayne Council No. 10 R. and S. M. stated assembly and work.

Friday, July 2—King Solomon's Chapter No. 4 R. A. M. work in the Royal Arch degree.

Saturday, July 3—The ladies of Loyal Chapter No. 49 O. E. S. will entertain the Masons and their families of Richmond and vicinity at an all day picnic to be held at Jackson park

on Monday, July 5. Come and enjoy the hospitality of the day. Please bring a well-filled basket.

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