

## Sight Seeing in War

(Concluded from page 13.)

tourists who read the bulletins from anxious friends desiring news of the whereabouts of travellers.

In Venice, at the American Consul's office, the party was met with the information that they would be unable to get to Florence unless they had individual passports, procurable at a cost of three dollars a head. The British Consul provided passports promptly for all the British members of the party.

The Cuthberts were really a charmed party, for in spite of unconscionable hold-ups at Florence and at Rome, where the hotel was deserted except for some four odious people, and the man in charge, who made it his business to harrow the party with tales of difficulty calculated to prolong their connection with him, they looked upon Naples and did not "die," and paid their intended visit to Pompeii.

Rome, Genoa, Stresa, Interlaken and on to Montreux, the most critical juncture, perhaps, in the whole of a strangely exciting journey. Cooks' were not using their own tickets. They declared no tourists could get through France, and advised going south to Genoa, via Geneva. The party was travelling on Cooks' tickets!

Opportunity to entrain for Pontarlier at last put in its niggardly appearance in the form of a car to accommodate 115 only when 250 blocked the station.

At Valorbe a search was made of the train when Madame LeMar and three of her companions, who had employed the five-franc "Open Sesame," and were gaily ensconced with the trunks in the baggage-carriage, found themselves suddenly thrust in a cupboard and locked in for the space of several moments.

AT Pontarlier the party were subjected to a search, just half at a time being permitted to leave the train and enter the station.

"I was the second woman searched," said Madame LeMar, "and when the entire party was finished, lunch being ordered at the station in the meantime, we were obliged to troop through the streets en masse to the French Consul's office, where it became my business in lieu of a courier to convince five men that seventy passports were quite all that a party of ninety needed."

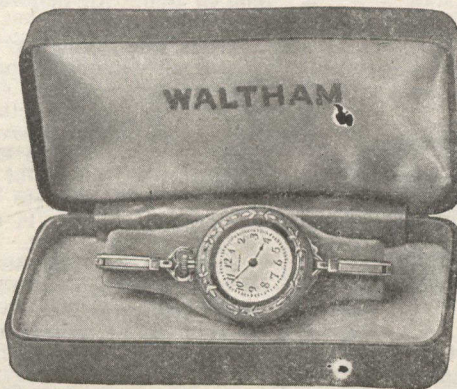
To Paris what a memorable journey! Twenty of the party in a third-class carriage, which had not been swept since the troopers used it, slept, that is to say cramped their necks on the backs of the hard, uncompromising seats, played games, sang, or fretted, according to their needs and inclinations.

Paris was no longer Paris, the Gay, but Paris, the Stern, when the tourists reached it. The museums were closed, the parks were closed. There was no admittance to the picture galleries. Business was suspended in the lesser stores and in the vast store, the Louvre, there was no one to deliver so much as a hat-box. No street-cars threaded the city. Restaurants closed at 9 p.m., and no one went out later without a passport. Napoleon's Tomb was opened for the party, and beyond it raw recruits were in training and old troops marched by at intervals, nearly all of them singing the Marseillaise. Two great search-lights constantly shifted. "Never, never," said Madame LeMar, "did tourists experience anything more thrilling."

London was wild over shipping difficulties. But the passengers for the Royal Edward, who had made their reservations, found that the same had been respected even though they could not present their claims until within two days of sailing.

The Bristol docks were thronged with soldiers who were embarking that night for the scene of conflict. They answered the cheers of the Royal Edward while groups of them broke into "Rule Britannia," and others chorussed the solemn verses of "God be With You Till We Meet Again!"

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