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PAGEANT OF EMPIRE'S MIGHT.

In continuous rain, which was never less than drizzle and much of the time has been a heavy down-pour, the British infantry have today, (December 13th), been following the cavalry across the Rhine. Since early morning every highway and by-road leading to the crossing of the river, every town or village street, has resounded to the roll of wheels and the tramp of marching feet. We entered in this country gently, trickling in with scouts and patrols and squadrons and individual battalions, but today it is the Army that is astir, and there is no German in all this area who does not know that the English are crossing the Rhine. The chief crossings were made by four bridges, three in Cologne, and one in Bonn. And wide apart as the bridges are, it was within a minute or two of the same time—namely, 9:30, that the points of the respective columns reached their appointed places of crossing.

The centre of interest at first was the same as yesterday—the great Hohenzollern Bridge at Cologne, where once more, with the Union Jack flying almost against the pedestal of the Kaiser's statue, General Plumer, the Second Army Commander took his stand to receive the salutes. The Royal Horse Guards band of yesterday was not here because each infantry battalion had its proper band. It was a few minutes before 9:30, General Plumer being already in his place, when a battalion of the Royal Fusiliers of the 29th Division swung up the wide approaching to the bridge to the tune of the "British Grenadiers". Then came more Fusiliers, the Lancashire Fusiliers (among whom there must have been some who were thinking of that desperate landing on "W" Beach at Helles) and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and after them battalions from all parts of the British Isles, Scottish Borderers with Scottish pipes, and Leinsters and other Irish, Monmouthshires and South Wales Borderers, who marched to the "Men of Harlech", Hampshires, and Worcesters, and the Border Regiment, waking the echoes of the Rhine to ask them if they kenned John Peel.

Memories Awakened.

Simultaneously at the Nord or Mulheim Bridge down-stream Scot-

tish troops of the 9th Division, both Highland and Lowland, were pouring over the river—Royal Scots and Royal Scottish Fusiliers, Seaforths and Camerons, and never surely did any German people have such a feast of pipes. Here Sir Charles Ferguson, Military Governor of Cologne, took the salutes. At the Hohenzollern Bridge after the first brigade had passed General Plumer moved by motor-car upstream to the iron suspension bridge (as far, perhaps, as Waterloo Bridge is from Westminster), and General Jacob, Commander of the Second Corps, took his place. At the suspension bridge it was the First Canadian Division who were going over—splendid stout, weather-tanned men, who looked the fighters that they have shown themselves to be. It was wonderful thrilling to go from one bridge to the other, from skirl of pipes to the triumphant swing of "John Peel", and then to the "Maple Leaf For Ever". Gallipoli and Monchy and Masnières, Gauche Wood and Wytschaete, Coruelette, and Lens and Passchendaele—what memories crowded on one as one watched—here all the roads so wide-severed, so glorious and so blood-stained all meet and end.

At Bonn the Second Canadian Division were crossing, and General Currie, Commander of Canadian Corps, was taking the salutes. I could not be both there and in Cologne, but people returning from Bonn tell me that there, as here throughout the morning crowds thronged the streets in the drenching rain watching in dead silence the British Army pass. It is well that they should see it. It must be remembered that among the people here are many thousands of German soldiers recently disbanded. One sees them everywhere, either in mufti, but easily recognizable by their age and bearing, or in mutilated uniforms.

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