WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—While it is only 36 years since the first feeble crow-hop of the Wright brothers, aviation already has the equivalent of the cauliflower veterans of prizefighting—veterans, incidentally, who keep right on going after 30. Ben O. Howard, who skippers the Douglas DC-4, the largest land plane in the world, across the country, left his right leg behind him, on his way on and up; as did Alexander P. de Seversky, a marvelous stunt flier with a wooden leg. And Wiley Post was served adequately by one eye in his breathtaking hazards. They carry on far beyond the one score and ten which weighted Max Baer helplessly against Lou Nova.

Air Vets Soar After 30; Some Gave Leg to Fly

Ben Howard was flying his self-made plane in the Bendix Transcontinental Trophy race in September, 1936, when he crashed in New Mexico. He and his wife, Mrs. Olive Howard, also a flier, were critically injured. He was unconscious 36 days and his leg was amputated.

"Research pilot," which is now Mr. Howard's rating with the United Air lines, appears to be a bit upgrade from the test pilot job, and implies engineering and technical skill as well as coolness and courage. All this Mr. Howard gained in designing, building and racing planes for many years as the "ride-'em cowboy" of many racing meets.

In 1930, he was flying the night mail, between Omaha and St. Louis. Losing daytime sleep at times, he built a slick little 100-horsepower racer which made him the star of the National Air races at Chicago in 1930. His small-engined planes kept on snatching prizes from ships with twice as much power. After his accident, he was out for 15 months, and then back with United Air lines in experimental work.

He is dark, slender, reserved, mastering the air leviathan with the sensitive and intuitive fingers of a concert pianist.

TENNESSEE made a super-grand splash when it brought Sergeant Alvin York to the World of Tomorrow, with a special train and a guard of honor and what-not. Just as a balance brought forward from the world of yesterday, it was the sergeant who, armed only with a service revolver and a rifle, killed 25 Germans and captured 132, including two officers, and herded them into his home dugout.

Super Soldier Finds Home Ills Hardest to Hit

The big, red-headed hero of the hog and hominy commonwealth has been having quite a deal of hard luck in the afterglow of his fame. Debt, chinchbugs, boll weevils and five-cent cotton are no such shining marks as mere Germans. He is busy gunning for the mortgage on his 395-acre farm, near Pall Mall, Tenn., trying to build a silo and hoping for the best.

He is a modest hero and deserves a cheer from all hands. This being a pleasant and unique deviation from that rather bitter monologue of Lou Angler, old-time German dialect comedian. The generals and the orators were throwing out their chests, celebrating their victory in war, "Vere iss der soldier?" was the plaintive refrain of the piece. And then the answer:

"He iss over in de woods, cutting down a tree to make himself a wooden leg."

GEN. EVANGELINE BOOTH, here from London on official business, says she's coming "home" to live next October. A Cooper union audience hissed her when she came here from Canada in 1904, but cheered before she finished. She remained 30 years, running the army from her quaint old house in Hartsdale, N. Y.

General Booth, Bonnet Still On, Coming 'Home'

She will be 74 next Christmas, relinquishing command of the international army. The daughter of Gen. William Booth, founder of the army, she was reared in London. At 17, the tall, vigorous, red-headed girl swung into the army ranks, singing their warrior hymns in the slums of London. Hoodlums had a standing offer of $50 for anyone who would knock off her coal-scuttle bonnet. Nobody ever did, then or since, although she was once severely injured. She was put in command of the Canadian army in 1896.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

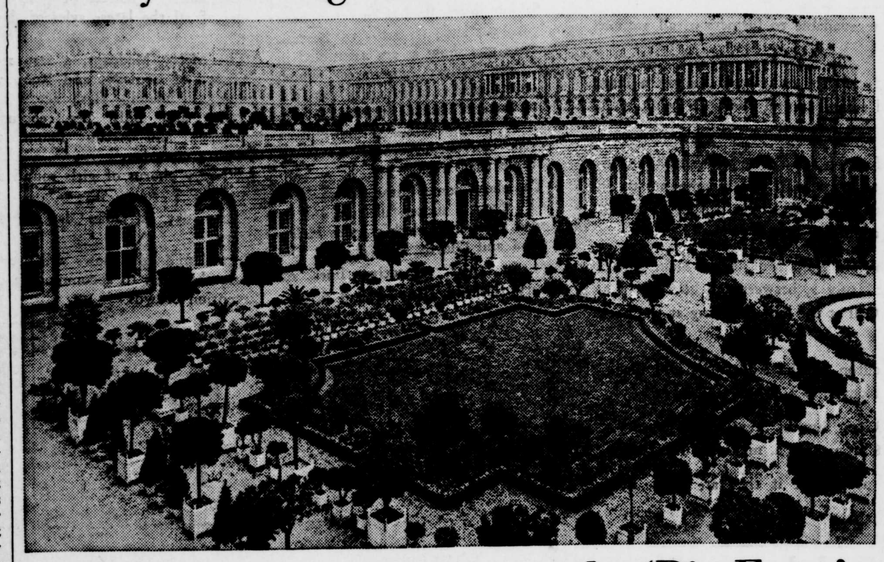
Jerusalem Taken on Foot

Several centuries ago, according to legend, Ibn Khasri, a Mohammedan poet, prophesied that when Jerusalem would be wrested from the Mohammedans its conqueror would enter the city on foot. When General Allenby took the city in 1917 he did just that.

Turkish Manna Grows on Trees

Turkish manna is a growth found on low trees and shrubs in the Near East, sometimes eaten by peasants as a sweet.

Twenty Years Ago in This Palace in France



These Statesmen, Known as the 'Big Four,'

Signed the Treaty That Ended World War

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

ON JUNE 28, 1919, the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles near Paris, France, for the third time in its history, was the scene of an event of world-wide significance. On that date was signed the treaty of peace which ended officially the World war.

In this same hall on January 18, 1871, the King of Prussia, head of a conquering army, had been proclaimed Emperor of Germany and there on February 26 of the same year the preliminary treaty of peace concluding the Franco-Prussian war had been signed. It ended that war, it is true, but those two events laid the foundations for another and greater war which was to flame forth 43 years later.

The authors of the Treaty of Versailles, signed 20 years ago this month, were known as the "Big Four"—Georges Clemenceau of France, David Lloyd George of Great Britain, Woodrow Wilson of the United States and Vittorio Orlando of Italy. They had stated their desire to bring about a "firm, just and durable peace." In the light of what has happened since then, it now seems extremely doubtful if they applied the right adjectives to the word "peace"—especially the last one!

For 20 years later finds that peace anything but "firm" and "durable" and that, according to the present head of the nation which had no other choice but to accept it, is because it was much less than a "just" peace. Now on the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles it is not inappropriate to examine some of its provisions and see what their present status is.

The League of Nations.

The first of those provisions was the Covenant of the League of Nations. The principal exponent of that covenant, which was supposed to be a guarantee against future wars, was Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States. Yet his country almost immediately refused to join it and the passing of two decades has seen Japan and Italy, two of its founders, leave it and Germany, a later joiner, resign from it. The two principal weapons of the league which were to enforce its decrees—economic and military sanctions—have proved to be impotent and today the League of Nations exists more in name than in fact.

The second and third provisions of the treaty dealt with the boundaries of Germany and reassignment of European territories. True, France still has Alsace-Lorraine but the Saar Basin is back under the sovereignty of Germany, as is the Memel district of East Prussia.

"Germany acknowledges and will respect strictly the independence of Austria—she agrees that this independence shall be inalienable, except with the consent of the council of the League of Nations." So read one of the paragraphs in the treaty. What would be the thoughts of Kurt Schuschnigg, former chancellor of Austria and recently released from a Nazi prison (or was he?), upon reading those words now?

"Germany . . . recognizes the complete independence of the Czecho-Slovak state . . . Germany hereby recognizes the frontiers of this state as determined by the principal allied and associated powers and the other interested states." Has Eduard Benes, former president of Czecho-Slovakia, now a lecturer in the United States, learned enough of our American idiom to say "Oh, yeah?" if shown that passage in the treaty.

No Fortifications?

"Germany is forbidden to maintain and construct any fortifications either on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank of the Rhine west of a line drawn 50 kilometers east of the Rhine . . . In the area defined above, the maintenance and the assembly of armed forces, and military maneuvers of any kind as well as the upkeep of all permanent works for mobilization, are in the same way forbidden." Would Adolf Hitler's lips curl in an ironical smile if you should point out those paragraphs to him?

The military, naval and aerial provisions of the treaty stated that the German army was to be limited to 100,000 men (Hitler is said to have had 100,000 men under arms during the Czech crisis and he occupied the Sudetenland with 250,000). "Universal compulsory military service shall be abolished in Germany" said the treaty. (Each year 500,000 young Germans are being put into uniform, according to reliable reports.)

German naval forces were limited to six 10,000-ton battleships, six light cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats and the construction or acquisition of submarines were forbidden. Ask the German workmen who have been building 35,000 and 26,000-ton ships and a whole fleet of U-boats about that provision!

"The armed forces of Germany must not include any military or naval air forces." Col. Charles Lindbergh could furnish some interesting testimony as to the observance of that clause in the treaty.

No fortifications commanding the routes between the North sea and the Baltic were to be maintained. The fortifications and naval harbors of the islands of Heligoland and Dune were to be destroyed, and no new fortifications were to be constructed within 50 kilometers of the German coast. Ask the captain of any ship which steams past Heligoland whether or not any fortifications are noticeable!

With Herr Hitler repeatedly referring to the return of Germany's lost colonies, it is interesting to read in the Treaty of Versailles this sentence: "Germany renounces in favor of the principal allied and associated powers all her rights and titles of her oversea possessions." Look in the Statistical Year-Book of the League of Nations and you'll find this table:

Colony	Present Mandatory Power
Ruanda Urundi	Belgium
Tanganyika	Great Britain
Cameroons	France
Cameroons	Great Britain
Togoland	France
Togoland	Great Britain
Souhwest Africa	Union of South Africa
Pacific Islands (Caroline, Marianne, Marshall Islands)	Japan
New Guinea	Australia
Nauru	Australia
Western Samoa	New Zealand

"But," you say, "weren't Italy and the United States both Allied Powers during the war? How come, then, that they aren't listed among the 'mandatory powers'?" The answer is, of course, that Uncle Sam didn't want any of the former German possessions. Italy did, and by the London treaty of 1915 had been promised "equitable" compensation in the event that France and Great Britain increased their colonial territories in Africa at the expense of Germany. In 1919 she wanted those two nations to make good on their promise. But it wasn't until 1925 that Italy obtained Jubaland from Great Britain and some unimportant "rectification" of frontier lines through uninhabited wastes from France. And that's one reason for the celebrated "Rome-Berlin axis" of today.

Of course, there are a number of other items in the Treaty of Versailles which aren't worth the paper they're written on—"scraps of paper" so to speak. Altogether they add up to a treaty that in two decades has fallen far short of bringing about the "firm, just and durable peace" which the "Big Four" believed they had achieved when on June 28, 1919, they summoned into the Hall of Mirrors German representatives, and said to them in effect, "Here is the dotted line on which you are to sign."

Forty-three years after a peace was signed at Versailles in 1871, France and Germany were again at war. Will history repeat itself and find them again at war in 1961—43 years after the Versailles treaty of 1919? Or will it come much sooner than that?

In so far as this article has listed so many provisions of the Treaty of Versailles which Germany has not honored, it seems rather superfluous to mention another, since it has to do with—of all things!—a skull. Article 246 of the treaty says: "Germany will hand over to His Britannic Majesty's government the skull of the Sultan M'kwawa which was removed from the protectorate of German East Africa and taken to Germany." And thereby hangs this tale:

When the Germans began their penetrations of East Africa in the last decades of the Nineteenth century, they met strong opposition from certain Bantu tribes, who were Wahabi Moslems. Among the peoples of Africa the Bantus are regarded as the bravest and most advanced, and in the Mohammedan religion the Wahabis are the fanatical Puritan type and best fighters.

A Magic Charm.

Beginning in 1870 the sultans of the Bantus, leaders of this fierce Wahabi sect, fought the German occupation of their lands around Lake Tanganyika for nearly 30 years. The last and greatest of these was Sultan M'kwawa who added a mystical note to the native shrewdness and courage of his predecessors. The word spread among his people that he had a magic charm which would prevent his ever being captured by his enemies.

So the young Bantus flocked to his standard, resolved to fight to the death against the oppressions of the Germans.

German soldiers found it dangerous to wander far from their posts lest they be wiped out in a Bantu ambush. Eventually, however, the German Mausers wore down the resistance of the poorly armed Bantus. In the late nineties the sultanate, which had held its own since 1870, found itself on its last legs. M'kwawa, who had convinced himself and his followers that Allah would never let him be taken, found himself cornered.

What he told his followers is unknown. He had guaranteed he could not be captured; he could make certain he would never be taken alive. So he committed suicide, believing it Allah's will. But he was not quick enough. The advance guard of Captain Von Prinz's Germans, headed by Sergeant Merkal, came upon the body before it could be spirited away.

Sergeant Merkal had little thought of charms, of magic, of the will of Allah. He was a matter-of-fact modern European. But the head had a definite value for him, for the government offered 6,000 rupees for the man who would take M'kwawa, dead or alive. He severed the head from the body, and preserved it in alcohol, as evidence that he was entitled to the reward.

Feeling that the country was now pacified, Captain Von Prinz ordered his men to return to the nearest blockhouse for a rest. The sultan's head was locked in the cellar of the fort.

One night, when the garrison was sleeping, a handful of men slipped into the blockhouse, and groped their way into the cellar. They took the head preserved in its alcohol and made their way out without disturbing anyone.

Head Is Stolen.

In the morning it was found that M'kwawa's head and the alcohol were gone. In its place was a freshly severed Bantu head. Perhaps it had belonged to an informer who had betrayed the sultan's whereabouts to the Germans.

Since then both heads have bedeviled the Germans, one by its absence, the other by its presence. The head of the sultan, buried somewhere in the territory, could be resurrected at any time as a signal for Bantu revolt. The presence of the other head gave color to the idea that the Germans were lying when they claimed to have lost the sultan's skull.

After the World war, when German East Africa became Tanganyika territory, a British mandate, the English wished possession of the sultan's skull. Perhaps they thought it would add to the native respect of their new rule. Perhaps they wished to present it to the natives as evidence of British kindliness as contrasted with German cruelty. Anyhow, they had Article 246 written into the Treaty of Versailles.

But it turned out that the sultan's skull was probably one of those reparations which Germany lacked the capacity to pay. Evidence was taken among the soldiers who had been present in the blockhouse, and from the widow of Captain Von Prinz. All agreed that the head had been lost, was still buried in some secret place in Africa, ready to be produced again when the time for revolt was ripe.

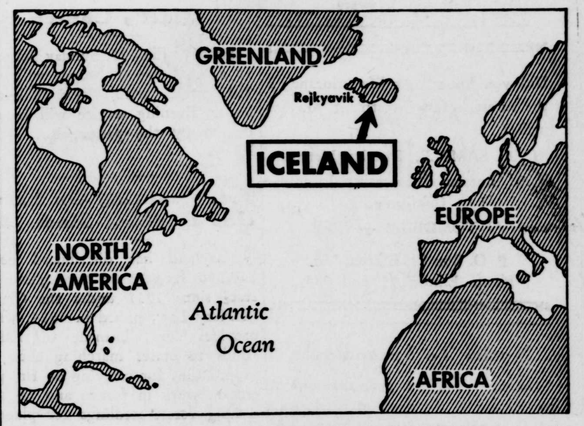
In 1920 the British appeared to be satisfied with the explanation. Yet in several cases the sultan's skull bobbed up unexpectedly to disturb the British parliament when some member of that body asked why Article 246 of the Treaty of Versailles had never been complied with. It is doubtful, though, if it is likely to come up again. There are too many others vastly more important to worry about now!

* * *

Another interesting paragraph in the Treaty of Versailles said: "Germany will restore to his Majesty the king of Hedjaz, the original Koran of the Caliph Othman, which was removed from Medina by the Turkish authorities and is stated to have been presented to the ex-Emperor William II." Tha Koran is now in the hands of the Mohammedans.

Germany also has restored the French battle flags which they captured during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71.

Iceland's Democratic Tradition Started by Vikings in 930 A. D.



Tiny Northern Country Is Model for Others; No Army, No Debt.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Iceland is a country which has never had a war; and apparently it would like to retain that record. In the island, regret was expressed recently because Iceland was not included with 31 countries in and adjoining Europe listed by the President of the United States as those to which a pledge of non-aggression be given.

Although Iceland celebrated her twentieth birthday only last December, this nation has had 1,008 years of democratic history behind it. Settled in the Ninth century by such varied groups as Irish monks and Vikings, it established as early as 930 an elected assembly, called the "Althing."

Losing its independence several centuries later, the island fell under the influence of Norway, and later under the rule of Denmark. It was not until 1918, that Iceland again became an independent state—joined with Denmark only by having the same king—and received the new constitution that made it a young nation with a long past.

Country of Contradictions.

Nearly 40,000 square miles in area, shaped like a giant flounder floating 200 miles off the coast of Greenland, Iceland is a country of contradictions. Its climate, tempered by the warm, north-flowing Gulf stream, denies its Arctic location. Little colder than many parts of the United States, its farms and comfortable villages belie its forbidding name.

In the island fire and ice meet when snow-capped volcanoes erupt, sending tons of water and blocks of ice down the mountainsides. Glaciers and lava beds, between them, divide one-fourth of the island's soil.

In the Fifteenth century the Black Death destroyed two-thirds of Iceland's population; 300 years later smallpox took another 10,000 victims. A bad famine followed, and in 1783 occurred the worst volcanic eruption of its history, wiping out farm houses and live stock, and sending ashes as far as Norway.

Country Without a Jail.

In spite of disaster, however, and the ever-present economic problems of meager soil and poor mineral deposits, hard-working Icelanders boast considerable modern progress.

Roads and telegraph and telephone lines have been built. Electricity has been widely installed; trucks and automobiles introduced. Last summer Iceland, after using German planes and German pilots, opened her own local airline and is now flying planes on regular routes between the capital, Reykjavik, and northern towns.

Proud of its famous literature and culture (Iceland knew the bright light of learning when much of Europe was still in darkness), this small nation of less than 120,000 people claims today literacy for all normal adults.

Returned travelers report that this island has no beggars and no jail—that all its crimes are "little ones."

Follow Copperfield's Philosophy.

With no army and navy, Iceland has a balanced budget. Its estimated income for 1938 is 17,464,280 kronur (about three and a half million dollars); outgo, 16,322,141 kronur. Iceland, in fact, recalls Mr. Micawber's philosophy in Dickens' "David Copperfield": "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness."

Although handicapped by lack of many raw materials, plus a soil usually producing only such crops as hay, potatoes and turnips, the island in recent years has been making the most of other natural resources at hand. Its numerous and swift rivers, useless for navigation, are valuable as sources of hydro-electric power; its hot springs for modern heating.

Already thriving Reykjavik is piping Nature's gift of warmth to its state hospital, hotels, offices, schools and some of its homes. By such magic, greenhouses continuously produce flowers and fruit; experiments are being made to coax the unwilling earth itself to greater fertility.

Plodding Mule Holds Own in Machine Age

Value in Modern Warfare Shown During Italy's Ethiopian Conquest.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Is the mule going to the dogs? The answer is "no," even in the machine age.

Both in numbers and in the no less tangible evidence of human appreciation, the mule is holding its own. One proof is found in a new statue in one of the chief parks of Rome—a minor result of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia. Erected in 1937, this monument is dedicated to the mule in honor both of its work with the Italian forces at the Alpine front in the World war, and for its later service in the parched and sun-scorched hills and valleys of Ethiopia.

Like millions of men in the world today, Rome's mule hero—slightly bigger than life—also carries arms. The 65-millimeter mountain artillery piece which it bears on its back is a symbol of the mule's usefulness in war. For its strength, endurance, and sure-footedness are proverbial in the hard work of transporting supplies and ammunition under the most difficult conditions.

Helped in Civil War.

The Civil war, says one United States general, pointing out the Union army's use of the animal to haul wagons over rough roads, could not have been carried to a conclusion without the faithful army mule.

In the South African Boer war, the British forces made good use of the mule's special qualities, when horses were unable to stand up under the strain. Dependable under fire, the mule did heavy duty for the Allies during the World war, packing artillery and supplies all the way to the front. In the mountains, these beasts often acted as "portable hospitals," carrying such necessities as surgical dressings, medicines, and blankets to the wounded.

Italians say that mules were invaluable during the 1911-12 war against Turkey for possession of Libya in North Africa. Some of the animals were even decorated for valor, and the story is told of one faithful beast which escaped from the Turks after capture and returned to its Italian masters, wounded but still bearing its artillery pack.

Mules for Royalty.

From time immemorial mules have been bred and worked in Europe, especially in the mountain regions of France, Spain, and Italy. Sometimes, instead of serving in the lowly occupations of farm and trade, they were used by royalty to pull the royal coaches. Decked out in brilliantly colored trappings, the mule in Ethiopia was considered the proper mount for the upper classes. By the decoration of his mule, the rank of the rider often could be determined.

In the United States, the "mule industry" assumed large proportions after the Revolutionary war. George Washington himself was keenly interested in the breed, and accepted from the king of Spain the gift of an Andalusian jack and jennet.

In 1905 the United States had more than two and a half million mules. By 1926, the peak of mule production was reached with nearly 6,000,000 mules and mule colts. Since then, due to the invasion of the farm by tractors, trucks, automobiles, and other farm machinery, Uncle Sam's mule population has declined to a little less than four and a half millions. However, the decline is expected to be halted within a few years, as a result of increasing colt production and other factors.

In many states, especially in the cotton belt, the mule is still supreme. Texas was credited with some 740,000 last year. Outside the cotton belt, Tennessee, Missouri, and Kentucky are among the big mule-using states. One Mississippi cotton plantation, the largest in the United States, employs some 900 mules on its 35,000-acre domain. Tennessee every year honors this hard-working animal at a mule festival held in Columbia.