

## General Pratt, Staff Men, Study Headquarters Plans

Second Army Corps Officers Leave Today for South Carolina to Compare Notes in Establishing Army Units; 22,000 Men Already in Second Corps

Major-General Henry C. Pratt, commanding Second Army Corps, Col. Carl A. Baehr, chief-of-staff, and Capt. John G. Ondrick, aide to the commanding general, left today for Columbia, S. C., to observe the work of the First Army Corps at its headquarters there. Major-General Peyton commands the First Army Corps, composed of the eighth and ninth regular army divisions and 20th national guard division. The eighth and 20th divisions are both at Fort Jackson, S. C., and the ninth division is at Fort Bragg, N. C. Other troops assigned or attached to the First Army Corps are stationed at posts and camps in that general area.

Headquarters of the First Army Corps at Columbia, was organized some time prior to the organization of the Second Army Corps headquarters at Wilmington, and the visit is being made to Columbia to observe operations of other headquarters.

With a view to preparing all troops assigned to the Second Army Corps as rapidly as possible for participation in field maneuvers on a larger scale than ever before held in this country in time of peace and for their immediate use in any emergency, officers on the staff of the Second Army Corps are formulating plans for maneuvers and supervising the training of divisions and other troops assigned to the corps by visits of inspection and instruction to organizations.

### 22,000 in Corps

The Second Army Corps now has assigned to it the Corps Headquarters Company, temporarily quartered in the state army in Wilmington, the 19th Observation Squadron, Air Corps, stationed at Newark, N. J., the 27th Engineers, combat, regular army, stationed at Fort Belvoir, Va., the 88th Anti-Tank Battalion, regular army, (77mm), stationed at Fort Meade, Md., and the 3rd Signal Battalion, stationed at Fort Monmouth, N. J. Approximate strength of the Second Army Corps at present is about 22,000 officers and men. This will be increased on Feb. 3 by about 10,000 officers and men when the 29th Division, National Guard, one of the three divisions assigned to the Second Army Corps is called into the federal service. The 29th Division, composed of troops from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, following an induction period of about 10 days at their home armories, will be stationed at Fort Meade, Md. Headquarters of the division has already been opened at Fort Meade, it was announced today, to supervise the transfer of troops from their home stations.

The Twenty-eighth Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, also assigned to Second Army Corps, is expected to be called into the service the latter part of February and will, following induction period, be stationed at Indianopolis, Ind. Pa.

With the induction of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Divisions, and the filling of the ranks of these units by selectees to be called probably in March, and with the assignment of additional corps troops, the Second Army Corps is expected to reach an approximate strength of 30,000 officers and men by spring.

### Part of First Army

The Second Army Corps, with headquarters in the Pennsylvania Railroad building, Wilmington, is one of the three army corps assigned along with a large number of army troops to the First Army.

The First Army Corps, with headquarters in Columbia, S. C., and the Sixth Army Corps, with headquarters in Providence, R. I., are the other two. The First Army Corps is composed of the Eighth, Ninth and Thirtieth Divisions as previously stated, and the Sixth Army Corps is composed of the First Regular Army Division, at Fort Devens, Mass., and the 26th National Guard Division, to be stationed at Camp Edwards, Mass.

Directly under army general headquarters, composed of the general staff and commanded by Gen. George C. Marshall, chief-of-staff of the army, there have been organized four armies, which are in turn composed at present of nine army corps. The Second Army Corps is one of the nine army corps which, with additional army troops in each instance, compose the four armies. There are nine regular army and 18 national guard infantry divisions in the nine army corps, with additional corps troops in each instance.

In addition to the nine army corps composed of infantry divisions, there is an armored corps of two divisions, and two cavalry divisions, all regular army. There are in addition a number of cavalry units, anti-aircraft artillery brigades and regiments, additional light, medium and heavy mobile field and coast artillery brigades and regiments. These units are in many cases assigned or attached to corps and armies. Coast defense types of coast artillery units, in most cases, are directly under one of the four army commands. The armored corps, composed of two armored divisions, is directly under general headquarters in Washington. Two additional armored divisions are to be formed, according to present plans.

## Negro Lauded As Patriotic

William Pickens Traces History of Race; Drive At Walnut Street Begins

William Pickens, representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said "No Negro has ever been a fifth columnist," at a meeting of the Wilmington branch of the organization yesterday in the auditorium of the Walnut Street Christian Association.

The meeting, attended by about 400 persons, also launched the association's campaign for \$1,000 in membership fund, which will close Friday, will solicit Negro civic, fraternal and social organizations for funds. Luther J. Porter, chairman of the membership committee, is director of the campaign. Music was furnished by a male chorus directed by Elmer Brown.

Mr. Pickens, in tracing the history of the race in America, pointed out exemplary patriotic careers. "The Negro is the oldest American, save for the Indian," he asserted, adding that "Washington had 3,000 Negroes in his Continental Army."

"Bad as any part of the South may be in its attitude toward the Negro," Mr. Pickens said, "I would rather live there than under Hitler."

John O. Hopkins, Jr., spoke on the Negro's role in modern aviation. The Rev. Seymour H. Barker, pastor of Bethel Methodist Church, introduced the speakers. The invocation and benediction was given by the Rev. David H. Harris, pastor of Zion Methodist Church.

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