



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Crisis, Vol. 16, No. 2

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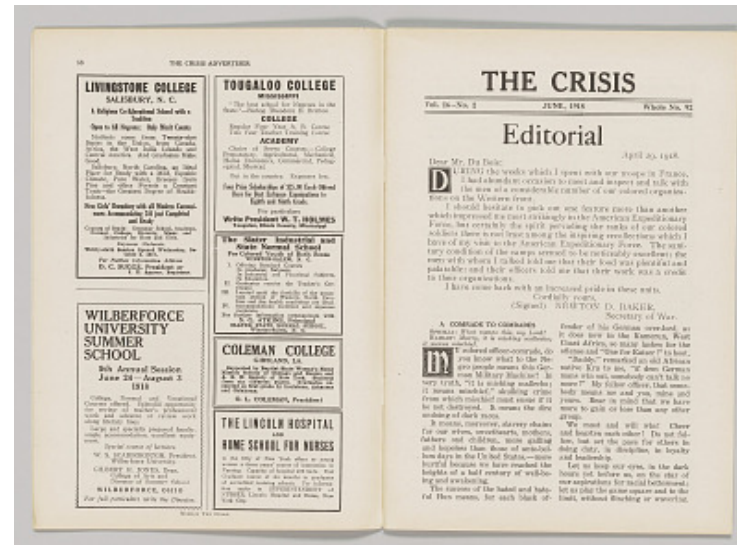
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Mention THE CRISIS.

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THE CRISIS
Vol. 16—No.2 JUNE, 1918 Whole No. 92

Editorial
April 29, 1918.

Dear Mr. Du Bois:
DURING the weeks which I spent with our troops in France, I had abundant occasion to meet and inspect and talk with the men of a considerable number of our colored organizations on the Western front. I should hesitate to pick out one feature more than another which impressed me most strikingly in the American Expeditionary Force, but certainly the spirit pervading the ranks of our colored soldiers there is not the least among the inspiring recollections which I have of my visit to the American Expeditionary Force. The sanitary condition of the camps seemed to be noticeably excellent; the men with whom I talked told me that their food was plentiful and palatable; and their officers told me that their work was a credit to their organizations.
I have come back with an increased pride in these units.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) NEWTON D. BAKER
Secretary of War.

A COMRADE TO COMRADES
OPHELIA: What means this, my Lord?
HAMLET: Marry, it is miching mallecho; it means mischief.

MY colored officer-comrade, do you know what to the Negro people means this German Military Machine? In very truth, "it is miching mallecho; it means mischief," skulking crime from which mischief must ensue if it be not destroyed. It means the dire undoing of dark races. It means, moreover, slavery chains for our wives, sweethearts, mothers, fathers and children, more galling and hopeless than those of ante-bellum days in the United States,—more hurtful because we have reached the heights of a half century of well-being and awakening. The success of the hated and hateful Hun means, for each black

offender of his German over-lord, as it does now in the Kamerun, West Coast Africa, so many lashes for the offense and "One for Kaiser!" to boot.

"Daddy," remarked an old African Kru to me, "if dem German mans win out, somebody can't talk no more!" My fellow officer, that somebody means me and you, mine and yours. Bear in mind that we have more to gain or lose than any other group.

We must and will win! Cheer and hearten each other! Do not follow, but set the pace for others in doing duty, in discipline, in loyalty and leadership.

Let us keep our eyes, in the dark hours yet before us, on the star of our aspirations for racial betterment; let us play the game square and to the limit, without flinching or wavering,

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