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NOTES TAKEN AT THE CONFERENCE WITH LT. COL.  
WM. I. WESTERVELT, ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, 11  
O'CLOCK, A. M., SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1925.

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Colonel Westervelt stated that he had been detailed by the Ordnance Department to go abroad to keep in touch with the general developments of interest to the Ordnance Department, and had been, for the past two years, Assistant Military Attache at the U. S. Embassy in Paris. The reason that Paris was selected as his station was that it was the center of military information and activity abroad.

He stated that it is a general belief among all European nations that another war is probable. For example, it is believed that the Soviet Republic will put on a "robber war" with a view of obtaining locomotives, railroad materials, etc., and that in this connection France was concerned with the possibility of Germany being able, with its present equipment and Army, to stand her share of this load - should it come.

France is particularly active in developing her munitions capacity. Details as to specific accomplishments are extremely difficult to obtain. Colonel Westervelt stated that France had made decided improvements in the development of gas masks, military clothing, anti-aircraft ordnance and equipment, new machine guns and motor transportation. The machine gun is considered a distinct advancement over the present armament, the Hotchkiss, but for reasons of economy it is not believed that it will supersede that weapon, at least for years to come.

In the development of motor transportation, the limiting factor is that all vehicles must be able to make good speed over improved roads and

also be able to move cross country without any delay in carrying equipment.

The Lorraine Maneuvers

The maneuvers held in Lorraine last fall were between the 20th French Corps, on one side, and the Morrocan Division on the other. The 20th Corps had limited aircraft for observation purposes alone. The Morrocan Division had unlimited aircraft for all purposes. Both were equipped with mechanical transportation. The outstanding lesson of these maneuvers appears to be that movements of large bodies of troops in any war to come will be limited to cover of darkness or camaflouge. Concealment was stressed during these entire maneuvers, maximum use being made of forests and of all other artificial coverings. Any concentration of large bodies of troops would appear to be impossible in battles of the future.

Morroco

Colonel Westervelt stated that the United States press had built largely on the apparent inability of the French army (which is supposed to be the best disciplined, best equipped and most highly trained army in existence today) in being unable to put down the rebellion of the Riffs in Morroco and asked why this was so. The French believe that their Air Service has been uniformly successful in its operations against the Riffians in Morroco, they have broken up every concentration made against them, they have been able to relieve isolated outposts, to supply they with food, munitions, water, and to evacuate the wounded.

France

France is vitally interested in the development of all types of aircraft and aircraft accessories. Everything possible is being done to stimulate the industry, not only along these lines but of the factories engaged in the manufacture of munitions. For example, the Snider Factory is now engaged on war orders for six of the smaller, central European nations. The Government is very careful not to divulge any of the processes of manufacture or improvements made in the industry.

Switzerland:

Colonel Westervelt stated that on a recent visit to Switzerland he had an opportunity to observe the new machine gun, cal. 6.5 MM, with which the Swiss Army has just been re-armed. He had an opportunity to witness this gun in operation and states that it appears to function satisfactorily. It appears to meet the entire approval of the Swiss Government.

Italy.

Italy is chiefly interested in the development of a new grenade gun, to be used in connection with its infantry armament. The Italians claim that there were very few men incapacitated for service from Infantry bullets, the idea being to get a "high burst" and "grenade" gun to increase casualties. This gun is still in the experimental stage.

England:

Colonel Westervelt stated that it was impracticable to get any definite information as to the lessons learned in the recent uprising in Mesopotamia. As a rule the British officer is very conservative and slow to take advantage

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of lessons which might be learned from such operations.

Japan.

Colonel Westervelt stated that Japan was buying arms and munitions from France in large quantities. He did not appear to attach any significance to this act at this time.

All European nations watch very carefully the activities of America and other nations in regard to preparedness. For example, when the idea was advanced in America to place the Army and Naval air forces under a common head it was made the subject of debate between interested government departments. The first part of this debate was furnished the American Embassy but the second part was confidential and Colonel Westervelt could give no information as to the conclusions reached.

*J. Westervelt*