

Final Number

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Volume II

MAJOR GEORGE H. ROBERTSON TENDERS HIS
RESIGNATION AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

On March 1st, Major George H. Robertson sent his resignation as Director of the Department of Transportation to the Commissioner to Europe, Colonel Robert E. Olds. Major Robertson's reason for resigning was due to his realization that he had successfully accomplished the enormous task of moving thousands of tons of material to all parts of Europe and the Near East, the keeping in running condition of hundreds of motor driven vehicles, that there were only odds and ends to be taken care of in the future and that within a short time the work of the Department would be so small and of so little importance that it would no longer require his guiding hand. He therefore felt that he had given enough of his valuable time to the A.R.C. cause and he took this step to sever his connections with the American Red Cross.

In accepting Major Robertson's letter of resignation, the Commissioner to Europe sent him the letter given below in acknowledgment of his valuable services.

COMMISSIONER TO EUROPE'S LETTER TO MAJOR
GEORGE H. ROBERTSON

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Paris, April 6th, 1921.

Mr. George H. Robertson,
Director, Transportation Department,
American Red Cross,
PARIS -

My dear Major Robertson:

Your letter of March 1st, tendering your resignation on May 1st, has just been handed to me.

My recollection is that the contract under which you have been serving expired some time last Fall and that you have been staying on since that time at considerable financial sacrifice in order to close out the work before you were obliged to leave. I want you to know that personally I have the deepest appreciation of the service which you have rendered the American Red Cross during the past two years. Your Department has made a magnificent showing under most difficult and trying conditions and I feel that you are not only to be congratulated but deserve the thanks of the entire organization both at home and abroad. The movement of enormous quantities of supplies of a heterogeneous character by all conceivable means of transport to practically all parts of Europe, including the most remote places - all this done expeditiously and without loss of goods - is a unique accomplishment. I accept your resignation with profound regret. You know as well as I do that all of our work is temporary and that the job you undertook, in its

main features, has now been done. We apparently have no justification for asking you to stay longer and I know that you would probably not be doing the right thing by your family and yourself if you continued.

Please remember that you will always have the sincere regard and friendship of all of your associates. I trust the knowledge of having made an exceedingly valuable contribution to a truly great task of world importance will always be a source of personal satisfaction to you.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) Robert E. Olds

Commissioner to Europe,
American Red Cross.

F A R E W E L L

April 30th, 1921.

To All Members of the Transportation Department:

I have tendered my resignation as Director of Transportation, American Red Cross, to become effective May 1, 1921. I have taken this step with much regret, but after serious consideration it seemed to me the best thing to do.

This office has always stood for a policy of fair play, with no favoritism or politics, and it will never cease to be a satisfaction to me to remember that I have been at the head of an organization which is second to none in its particular line of work.

I do not know how long this work will continue, but while it is necessary for the Red Cross to have a Transportation organization I am confident that each and every one of you will continue as capable and efficient in the future as you have shown yourselves in the past. You have rendered loyal and excellent service and I want you to know that it has been appreciated.

I wish all of you everything that is good for the future, and I hope that your association with this Department, and with the Red Cross, will be a source of pleasant recollection to you, as it will be to me, in the years to come.

(signed) George H. Robertson

Director Transportation
Department

MAJOR GEORGE H. ROBERTSON, CHEVALIER DE LA LEGION D'HONNEUR

Major George H. Robertson was born in New York on November 22, 1884. His early life was spent in the environment of Railroad operations, his father being a leading Railroad executive of that period, but as a boy he had become deeply interested in

the then new means of transportation, the automobile. Following his natural inclination, in November 1902 he entered the automobile business with his father in New York City and the following year 1903, began his spectacular racing career, which culminated in his holding for three years the foremost place amongst the world's racing drivers.

In 1910 he retired from the automobile racing and the list below shows some of his brilliant achievements :

- 1907 Established world's track record Empire City track.
- 1908 Established world's 24 hour track record Brighton Beach.
- " Won Fairmont Park road race.
- " Won Vanderbilt Cup Race Long Island -- First American with American car to accomplish this.
- " Established world's 10 mile record Los Angeles.
- 1909 Won 24 hour race Brighton Beach.
- " Won Fairmont Park road race.
- " Established world's records from 50 to 150 miles at Atlanta.
- " Won Lowell road race.
- " Defeated de Palma, track champion, at Brighton Beach for American track championship.
- " Named as American road and track champion.
- 1910 Established world's 5 mile at Daytona.

In 1910 Major Robertson entered business in New York City. Being a member of the 7th Regiment, National Guard, New York State, he was ordered in July 1916 to the Mexican Border, where he remained until January 1917 when he returned to his business in New York City.

During his service in the National Guard, from 1906 until 1917, Major Robertson had been trained in Army Transportation, specializing in Motor and Rail, and was asked by Colonel Roosevelt to become a member of the Advisory Board on the Organization of the division of the American Army that Colonel Roosevelt wished to lead to France. He assisted as a Transportation expert in drafting the organization of this proposed unit.

In July 1917, Major Robertson was ordered to Sparta, New York as Commanding Officer of the Supply Train of the 27th Division serving in this capacity until September 1917 when he was transferred as Major to the Air Service and ordered to Washington, leaving for France in October of the same year. Upon arrival in France he was made Commanding Officer of the First Air Service Concentration Depot, at St. Maixent. He was then appointed Chief of the Air Service Transportation from which service he was finally transferred at the time of the Armistice, as Provost Marshal of Base Sections 2 and 6.

Recommended for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Major Robertson applied for demobilization in France in March 1919 to take charge of the Transportation of the American Red Cross, assuming the duties of Director of Transportation of this organization March 15, 1919.

During the war and since the Armistice Major Robertson has received the following decorations :

- Chevalier de la Legion D'Honneur
- Officier de l'Instruction Publique
- Officier de l'Ordre de l'Etoile Noire
- Officier Medaille D'Honneur
- Order of St. Stanislaus (by General Wrangel)
- Government decoration by Latvian Government

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT BIDS MAJOR ROBERTSON
GOOD BYE AT FAREWELL DINNER

Major Geo. H. Robertson, officially Director of Transportation and unofficially our leader, counsellor and friend was the guest of the Transportation Department at a dinner dance given in his honor on April 30, at the Pavillon du Touring, Bois de Boulogne. The entire Department was represented to do homage to our Chief before his departure and in the mind of every one was the thought and hope that this occasion was not a farewell but an expression of our wishes for Bon Voyage and Au Revoir.

The dinner was such a one as would leave the King of Epicureans with nothing to be desired. To attempt to describe it would only be to do it injustice so we come to coffee time and the speeches of Au Revoir.

Captain Vincent officiated as toastmaster and he did it mighty well. Miss Navarro sang us a very pretty song in French well accompanied by Miss Dalle. Then Captain Williams summed up the work of the Department, our love for our Chief and our sorrow at his departure in the poem given below :

GOOD LUCK, BONNE CHANCE BUT NOT GOOD BYE

Just to call to your attention;
There was once a thing worth mention
Called the Red Cross Transportation,
It was known around the world from coast to coast.

When the stuff accumulated
Waybills then were quickly dated,
Tariff bills were nicely rated
And the trains were on their way; "we did not boast".

Steamers pulling at their anchors,
Camions heating up their motors,
Railway cars and even tractors
Getting all away to lands where need was king

We were always in a hurry
Doing things without a worry
Working hard, we were not sorry
Up and at them; roll your sleeves up, "that's the thing".

When the chiefs felt like a joy ride,
(And the need was almost worldwide,)
For the trips along the roadside
To the distant battlefields of ancient France,

Cadillacs were always running,
Fords were puffing and a snorting,
Gasoline was always burning.
When you rode you felt just in a trance.

All worked hard and all were happy
Trying hard to make it snappy,
Hustling round just like a puppy
At our jobs from morn to noon and noon to night.

One man only to give orders,
We knew then no other masters,
Neither heeded other matters,
We settled down to work and settled tight.

He was king of transportation,
Always kind in his directions,
Working hard for our affections
Gosh, it's hard to think that he's about to go.

How we liked to hear him say,
In his own peculiar way,
At the end of every day
"Good, old man, that was a corker, tell you so".

But, Alas, the time is nigh
For us all to say goodbye,
For the powers that are high
Think it time to salvage all our work, by Jo.

But the friendships that were formed
Thru the fortresses we stormed
Cannot easily be torned,
So don't feel so bad to say Au Revoir.

Yet again the same old Bunch,
I have somehow got a hunch,
Will go often out to lunch
All together as in days that just passed by.

So at present let us say,
To the Major in our way,
Gosh, we won't be far away
Good luck, Bonne Chance but not Good Bye.

The Commandant de Beauvoir expressed, in his inimitable way, our sentiments towards the Major. Captain Dobes sang two selections which were exceptionally well rendered. Then followed the presentation of a gold wrist stop and time watch by Captain Vincent. Then the Chief of Motor Transport called on our Bureau Heads, Port Managers, Mr. Bridgeman and many others who expressed their sentiments each in his own way and from his own point of view, simply and full of heart feeling. The gist of all remarks was to the effect that it was easy to do our best and to do it all the time for one whom we honored, respected and admired.

After the presentation of the watch, Major Robertson thanked the members of his organization by expressing his thanks and deep gratification for our loyalty, untiring effort and intelligent cooperation.

After a toast to the Chief, the orchestra began to get the attention which it justly deserved. We danced, and then we danced some more. We refreshed ourselves with the sparkling kind and with the bubbly kind and then we danced again.

In the very, very small hours of the morning, we finished the evening which had been replete with pleasure. We may forget the evening and its attendant enjoyment but Major George H. Robertson will always be remembered by us with that feeling of warm friendship and respect which a real man merits and unvariably finds in those about him.

LOUIS BLANC OPERATIONS MOVES TO RUE CASTAGNARY

The Louis Blanc Operation Garage is moving this week from No. 6 rue Louis Blanc to No. 77 rue de Castagnary. The transfer of this unit releases the entire

ATTENNIES

Cramptonville (New Eng.)
On the grounds
History of the side

• Roosevelt, Mrs O. E.
71 - Kilditch Bridge - Bankers Trust
Co.
Boston, Mass.

Bay,
7447 Buella Ave. Chicago

Raoul - Duval
49 rue Felix Faure
France.

Robertson, J. H.
28 - Ave. des Champs Elysees.

% Robertson & Willing Corp
176 - W. 57 St
New York City

Circle 6406
Cable - ROBSTEL - New York

Maison Raymond (Britten)*
4 rue de Suisse

Mrs. O. W. Roosevelt
1238, Peachtree St.
Atlanta, Georgia

6 - Harcourt House,
Cavendish Square,
London. W.

* Renee Rim - 8, rue Duphot.

* Ford Motor Company,
1710, Broadway x N.Y.C.
(Incorporated)
(Charles Kaysinger)

G. Reuschel
110 Tremont Street
Studio Bldg. Boston, Mass.

Mrs. J. J. [unclear]
706 - 8th Ave. Helms

* National City Bank
45. 1st Avenue [unclear]

Dr. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

* in telephone book under
Pellerin 88 - Champs Elysees.

ask for M. Journer

Rodrigot, Madaya
33 rue de la Tourneelle

* 1760 Broadway
% The [unclear] Co

Rio - Malle Gabby
de Gall, [unclear]
Morbihan

Restaurants
Auberge Pierre
18 bis rue d'Alsace
18 bis rue d'Alsace

July 7, 1929 - [unclear]
Park and Walbridge
14 Wall Street
N.Y.C.

M. Rey - Ledet
27 rue du Depart
Prof Chauvignat de L. P.
(for toile and Sammaux - contr. [unclear])

Geo Robertson - Jan 1930
North Westpalat and [unclear]
Roslyn, N.Y. L.I.
New York

Mme Verpji Roddy
11 bis rue Schoelcher
(Paris)

Gaby Rio - Le Gall

Kerolis
Hennelbort
Morbihan