

ASSIGNMENT TO STATE DEPARTMENT FOR VISITS OF
KING OF BELGIUM AND PRINCE OF WALES
TO THE UNITED STATES

Shortly after the Versailles Peace was signed, I received word from Washington that I was to come to the United States to represent the Department of State in connection with the approaching official visits of the King of Belgium and the Prince of Wales to the United States.

I returned from Havre to New York on an uneventful voyage on a transport bringing back American soldiers.

The King and Queen of Belgium made an extensive and uneventful trip around the United States; but I did not accompany them; I took care of the Washington end.

All was not smooth sailing in connection with the ^{invitation to} ~~trip~~ of the Prince of Wales ^{to make the trip} and, in the end, it required the personal intervention of Mrs.

Woodrow

Woodrow Wilson to straighten things out. In New York also there were difficulties, and there Grover Whalen helped me out.

The Prince had a great personal success and was bombarded with letters, especially from the fair sex, some of which were touching and some very amusing. Girls used to lie in wait for him at every corner.

The Prince did all the conventional things around Washington. He put a wreath on George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon; there was a dinner at the White House; a reception at the Library of Congress; a number of dinners and luncheons and teas around town.

In New York we did a heavy round also of banquets, luncheons and teas; made a formal visit to the City Hall; also to all of the outstanding places of interest.

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There was a gala performance at the Metropolitan. Caruso sang in Pagliacci and in L'Amore di tre Ré. I asked Mr. and Mrs. Al Smith to the Prince's Box. The house was a splendid sight, with jewels and clothes, etc.

All of the theaters wanted to have performances, and I selected Ziegfield's, but stipulated that they should get various acts I liked from shows around town; they did. I reserved all of the boxes for our party and a number of front rows downstairs for officers from His Majesty's Cruisers CONSTANCE and RENOWN. The Prince was traveling on the RENOWN and the CONSTANCE accompanied him. The show was a tremendous success and the girls unusually attractive.

Two men of the Prince's staff contributed tremendously to the success of the Prince's trip; Admiral Halsey (I have forgotten what his title

was

was with the Prince) and Sir Godfrey Thomas, Bt., his Private Secretary. They were both efficient, as well as attractive.

The Counselor of the British Embassy, who cooperated with me in making arrangements, was ~~the~~ recent British Ambassador at Washington, Sir Ronald Lindsay. Bill Nye of the State Department was with us and made a hit with the Prince.

We made a trip to West Point by ^{special} train and the Cadets put on the fine show for which they are famous. We made another trip by motor to Annapolis, where the Cadets did themselves proud, too. We lunched at each place with the heads of those Institutions.

When the Prince sailed from New York on the RENOWN, he went out to his ship in a launch from

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some Yacht Club's landing uptown. The RENOWN started at once and we, accompanied by motorcycle police raced down to the Battery in time to see it pass. I have forgotten in how few minutes we made the journey.

The Prince was very pleasant to deal with, although we did not always agree.

We also did the Horse Show and they put on some good acts for us. We visited the Treasury and saw piles of gold -- piles that would seem very small now.

André Tardieu, afterwards well-known in French politics, was much in evidence in Washington in those days.

I have

I have kept a copy of the Program of the
Royal Visit as published by the Department of
State: