

DIGNITY HUMOURS THREATEN WESTERN UNION.

Continuing their whirlwind tour of Europe, the American Chiefs of Staff go to Paris - where at the Arc de Triomphe, they honour the dead of two world wars. To prevent a skirmish, (is the object of the Atlantic Pact,) the six military details of which the Service Chiefs had flown the Atlantic to discuss. Communist agitators massing in nearby side streets are kept in order by armed police. They fail miserably to stage their much-heralded protest march. The roads are cleared by police as the American party drive off to Fontainebleau - (the Western Union Headquarters.) For days, this Napoleon-built fortress has been the centre of conflicting rumours. Reports spoke of clashes between Field Marshall Montgomery and France's temperamental General de Lattre de Tassigny. America's General Bradley - (with whom Monty differed in public about the handling of the Ardennes battle) - is said to have sided with the Frenchman. To independent onlookers, the clash of personalities (if there is any) is not apparent. The official statement on the talks - which brought together the Portuguese, Dutch and Belgian Chiefs of Staff says that their aim was to fit Montgomery's Headquarters into the wider framework of the Atlantic Pact. No one knows how the rumours began. A split on defence plans is denied, but "varying ideas" are admitted to exist. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the Chiefs of Staff are united on the main issue - the Defense of Western Union.

---