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Allies at Saloniki Preparing to Stay; Many Serbian Soldiers Joining French Camp

SALONIKI, Dec. 9.—Here it is difficult to understand the discussion in the London and Paris newspapers concerning the withdrawal of the allied force from the Balkans. Evidence before the eyes of those in Saloniki is entirely opposed to such a movement.

While in Parliament and the Chamber of deputies politicians may debate the retirement of the armies, England and France apparently are making every preparation to remain. That the line of active operation may be brought nearer to Saloniki to prevent cutting of the railroads is possible. In fact, in the last two days such a withdrawal from the Bulgarian and Serbian boundaries has gradually taken place. But of the evacuation of the territory from the boundaries to the coast there is no evidence.

On the contrary, reinforcements of British troops are arriving daily and the French are importing large numbers, and are making ready to set up wooden barracks each capable of holding 200 men. Also along the waterfront they are building storehouses of brick and stone. At the French camp in the suburbs of Saloniki when I visited it today I found thousands of soldiers actively engaged in laying stone roads, repairing bridges, and erecting new ones. There is every evidence of an intention to make this the base until the advance in the Spring.

A battalion of Serbians 700 strong has arrived at the French camp. In size and physique they are splendid specimens of fighting men. They are now road-building. Each day refugees of the Serbian Army add to their number.