The Official Newspaper of the A. E. F.

The Stars and Stripes

By and For the Soldiers of the A. E. F.

VOL. 1—NO. 47. FRANCE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918. PRICE: 50 CENTIMES. UNITED STATES, 10 CENTS. GREAT BRITAIN, SIXPENCE

MEUSE-ARGONNE SAW A.E.F. MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT

C.-in-C. Describes Battle's Three Phases in Report to Secretary Baker

OTHER UNITS WITH ALLIES

Strength of Army in Europe, Excluding Losses, 2,053,347—1,338,169 Combat Troops

The second instalment of General Pershing's report to Secretary Baker concerning the activities of the A.E.F. deals with the Meuse-Argonne operations and the work of other units with the Allies. The report follows:

On the day after we had taken the Saint Mihiel salient, much of our corps and army artillery which had operated at Saint Mihiel, and our divisions in reserve at other points, were already on the move toward the area back of the line between the Meuse River and the western edge of the forest of Argonne. With the exception of Saint Mihiel, the old German front line from Switzerland to the east of Rheims was still intact. In the general attack planned all along the line, the operation assigned the American Army as the hinge of this Allied offensive was directed toward the important railroad communications of the German armies through Mézières and Sedan. The enemy must hold fast to this part of his lines or the withdrawal of his forces with four years' accumulation of plants and material would be dangerously imperiled.

The German Army had as yet shown no demoralization and, while the mass of its troops had suffered in morale, its first class divisions and notably its machine gun defense were exhibiting remarkable tactical efficiency as well as courage. The German General Staff was fully aware of the consequences of a success on the Meuse-Argonne line. Certain that he would do everything in his power to oppose us, the action was planned with as much secrecy as possible and was undertaken with the determination to use all our divisions in forcing a decision. We expected to draw the best German divisions to our front and consume them while the enemy was held under grave apprehension lest our attack should break his line, which it was our firm purpose to do.

Our right flank was protected by the Meuse, while our left embraced the Argonne forest in which there were placed elaborate defenses, screened by dense thickets which had been generally considered impregnable. Our order of battle from right to left was the Third Corps from the Meuse to Malancourt, with the 33rd, 80th, and 4th Divisions in line, and the 3rd Division as Corps reserve; the Fifth Corps from Malancourt to Vauquois, with the 70th, 37th, and 91st Divisions in line, and the 32nd Division in Corps reserve; and the First Corps from Vauquois to Vienne-le-Château, with the 35th, 28th and 77th Divisions in line and the 92nd in Corps reserve. The Army reserve consisted of the 1st, 29th and 82nd Divisions.

On the night of September 25 our trooops quietly took the place of the French who thinly held the line in this sector which had long been inactive. In the attack which began on the 26th, we drove through the barbed wire entanglements and the sea of shell craters across No Man's Land mastering all the first line defenses. Continuing on the 27th and 28th, against machine guns and artillery of an increasing number of enemy reserve divisions, we penetrated to a depth of from three to seven miles, and took the village of Montfaucon and its commanding hill, and Exermont, Gercourt, Cuisy, Septsarges, Malancourt, Ivoiry, Epinonville, Charpentry, Very and other villages. East of the Meuse, one of our divisions which was with the Second Colonial French Corps captured Marcheville and Rieville, giving further protection to the flank of our main body. We had taken 10,000 prisoners, we had gained our point of forcing the battle into the open, and were prepared for the enemy's reaction which was bound to come as he had good roads and ample railroad facilities for bringing up his artillery and reserves.

In the chill rain of dark nights our engineers had to build new roads across spongy, shell torn areas, repair broken roads beyond No Man's Land, and build bridges. Our gunners, with no thought of sleep, put their shoulders to wheels and drag-ropes to bring their guns through the mire in support of the infantry now under the increasing fire of the enemy's artillery. Our attack had taken the enemy by surprise, but, quickly recovering himself, he began fierce counter attacks in strong force supported by heavy bombardments with large quantities of gas. From September 28 until October 4 we maintained the offensive against patches of woods defended by snipers and continuous lines of machine guns, and pushed forward our guns and transport, seizing strategical points in preparation for further attacks.

Other Units With Allies

Other divisions attached to the Allied armies were doing their part. It was the fortune of our Second Corps, composed of the 27th and 30th Divisions which had remained with the British, to have a place of honor in co-operation with the Australian Corps on September 29 and October 1 in the assault upon the Hindenburg line where the Saint Quentin Canal passes through a tunnel under a ridge. The 30th Division speedily broke through the main line of defense for all its objectives, while the 27th pushed on impetuously through the main line until some of its elements reached Guoy. In the midst of the maze of trenches and shell craters and under cross fire from machine guns, the other elements fought desperately against odds. In this and in later actions, from October 6 to October 19, our Second Corps captured over 6,000 prisoners and advanced over 13 miles. The spirit and aggressiveness of these divisions have been highly praised

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BREST WINS RACE; ROCHEFORT SECOND IN STEVEDORE TILT

Breton Port Reaches 800 Per Cent Goal in 45 Days

ROUEN, MARSEILLES NEXT

La Pallice, Bordeaux, Le Havre, Nantes and St. Nazaire Trail Quartet of Leaders

In six weeks and three days, instead of in the eight weeks laid down for the Stevedores' contest, Brest came through a winner and reached "Berlin."

That is, Brest made its score of 800 just 11 days before the allotted time. It did it in spite of the fact that considerable changes had to be made at the port in view of its being turned into an embarkation center and in spite of the time necessarily lost on account of the President's arrival there. Starting at the bottom of all the ports for the first week in the contest, it ran through the field and breasted the tape 13 points ahead of Rochefort, its nearest rival.

Here is the way the ports lined up at the finish:

Brest	800
Rochefort	787
Rouen	783
Marseilles	753
La Pallice	738
Bordeaux	666
Le Havre	661
Nantes	660
St. Nazaire	606

Leaves for Winning Companies

The winning Stevedore companies in the ports, the companies having the best average in freight unloading for the period of the contest, are to be granted leaves as soon as the details can be arranged, in accordance with instructions from the Commanding General, S.O.S. They will be sent to Chambéry, in the Savoy area, not far from Aix-les-Bains, to enjoy seven days of respite, plus the travel time taken in getting down there and back.

Also, those same winning companies are, on the completion of their leaves, to have priority of return to the States. They will be returned in what the paper-work people call "periodic increments," as soon as they are replaced by labor organizations employed elsewhere, which have not been in France as long as they have. While, naturally, the winning company at Brest, the winning port, will be taken care of first, as befits its standing, and will have a chance to go with the outfit in the Rase to Berlin, the others will follow in short order. That is to be the policy of the Transportation Service, as officially announced.

French Civilians Help

Brest's winning Stevedore outfit is Company M, 854th A.T.C. Its members came over with Major John O'Neil, Brest Stevedore chief, as Company M, 301st Stevedores, in November, 1917. Their work in the past has won them the praise of General Pershing and General Atterbury, the transportation head, when the generals have been inspecting the port, and the officers who have been boosting the contest most heartily — Lieutenant Colonels Stern and Coney and Major Barndollar—acclaim "Old M" the best of its kind in the A.E.F.

Rochefort's success in reaching second place, it should be stated here, is due in large measure to the zeal of the French civilians employed on the American-run docks and to the splendid backing given the Race by the French mayor and townspeople. Rouen, too, would not have climbed up and nailed down third place had it not been for the help of the French civilians working at the docks—for the port has not a single American Stevedore. Rouen furthermore enjoyed the hearty co-operation of the British, French and Belgian authorities, who did all in their power to help the American officers and non-coms in charge of the unloading job there to put the port on the map.

Some St. Nazaire Records

For the tail-enders, for St. Nazaire, a word of great credit is due in closing. The Stevedores at Camp 4 of that port discharged more tonnage than at any other A.E.F. port, and hold the day, week and month records of the A.E.F. Though St. Nazaire never headed the weekly lists of the ports, its spirit was always high and the end saw no falling down in its efficiency. The same might be said with equal justice of the other contenders in the race.

The total tonnage discharged at St. Nazaire during the eight weeks previous to November 3, when the race started, exceeded that of any other port and still stands as an A.E.F. record, despite the competition. "It was absolutely impossible," says Lieutenant Hart, St. Nazaire's contest officer, "for the port to increase her percentage sufficiently above her own record for her to win the race."

SAILORS CAN VISIT A.E.F. BATTLEFIELDS

Many Take Chateau-Thierry Excursion When on Leave in Paris

The gobs are taking Château-Thierry. Small detachments are pushing on toward Montdidier, and some have even advanced to Rheims.

Some days there are large detachments, some days no men are sent, for it all depends upon the state of mind of the gob—whether he wants to see the places where his O.D. brothers fought, or would rather spend his leave in Paris.

The commanding officer of the Naval Forces in Paris has arranged with the commanding general of the District of Paris to permit all naval personnel desiring to see the famous battlefields to visit them, going from and returning to Paris when they are in the capital on leave.

THE FUTURE

ADOPTIONS' CLOSE FAILS TO PREVENT INFLUX OF FRANCS

Signal Corps Camp, 5000 Strong, Among Final Parrains of A.E.F.

FUTURE PLAN TAKES SHAPE

Aim Is to Give Children Chance They Would Have Had If Father Had Lived

The A.E.F.'s war orphans, 3,444 strong, completed today their first week as a composite, organized family, with father and children doing nicely—so far as the children are concerned, a whole lot more nicely than might, by a normally conservative person, be expected.

The degree to which this niceness might exceed expectations may be indicated by the fact that, at the rather early age of seven days, the A.E.F.'s 3,444th-lets already have something laid up in the bank for them against the day that they will need it. Their nest egg, it shall be said at the risk of delving too quickly into franc talk and of scrambling sentiment and finance, totals right now 123,047.49 francs—on top of the 500 francs per child for the first year.

The early arrival of all these francs, and the fractional part thereof, at the office of THE STARS AND STRIPES was more or less unexpected. At any rate it came in sooner and in larger amount than anybody present expected. And its arrival means that the Orphan Department, in acknowledging it, has got to explain, sooner than expected, something of the plan for the future of the A.E.F. war orphan family which has already been outlined broadly but which is not yet ready for presentation in detail.

Just a Leather Pouch

The influx of the francs started when Col. Carl F. Hartman arrived in town with a leather pouch. The leather pouch looked innocent, but when opened and emptied, its contents looked like a Master Signal Electrician's monthly pay. It totaled 78,000 francs.

Col. Hartman is the C.O. of the Signal Corps Replacement Depot which, geographically, includes 14 towns in the vicinity of Cour-Cheverny, near Blois. There were 5,000 men in the depot, so that the 78,000 francs represents a per capita average of 15 francs.

After they had raised the amount they got to thinking. They figured that the 78,000 francs would adopt 156 orphans for a year. Also they figured that, on the same basis, it would adopt 15 orphans for ten years and 31 orphans for five years. And they figured that, in view of the end of the fighting and the probability of the French government's being able to help its own orphans, long term adoptions might be better.

This dovetailed with the plan now be-

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50 CENTIME NOTES FOR ARMY ON RHINE

New One and Two Franc Bills Also to Replace French Silver

A new issue of French paper money, 50 centime, one and two franc notes, will be used in paying the American Army of Occupation about Coblence. No French silver will be handed out by American paymasters in Germany.

The French government has contracted to deliver immediately many francs' worth of the new 50 centime, one and two franc notes to the American Army. The paper currency also will be used in paying the French, British and Belgian armies in the occupied zones.

Although chambers of commerce in most of the important cities of France have been issuing fractional paper currency during the war, the small paper notes have not hitherto been utilized as a part of the national currency system.

A policy is now being formulated to govern the methods by which American soldiers in Germany, as well as soldiers of France and England, may exchange their French money for marks according to their needs. The difficulty is the fact that the value of the mark, in its relation to the dollar, pound and franc, has not yet been determined by the financial agents of the countries now engaged in the peace negotiations.

For Other Prisoners

To facilitate payment of American officers who had been prisoners in Germany, the Chief Paymaster's department has set the exchange value of the mark at .238. Officers are entitled to full pay for the period they were held by the enemy, less any payments made to them by Germany under treaty agreement. Enlisted men who were prisoners also will receive their back pay.

Payment of both will be undertaken as soon as final instructions are received from the War Department, but officers are being paid at once for November. Enlisted men may be paid through the preparation of supplemental service records where the original has been lost.

BONDS NOT COMING OVER

The Q.M.C. at Washington will not mail Second Liberty Loan bonds to soldiers in France, according to rules stated on notifications being received by members of the A.E.F. This ruling was based on war-time ocean transportation hazards, and possibly may be changed, A.E.F. Finance Department officials say.

Second Liberty Loan bonds subscribed for by men in France on the allotment payment plan were paid up on July 31, and the War Department at Washington is now making deliveries in the States by registered mail.

Deliveries are made to the person whom the subscriber had named as payee, but in many cases where records did not show the name of person to whom delivery was to be made questionnaires have been mailed to men in France.

BILLETS DE LUXE FOR THIRD ARMY; ASK HANK GOWDY

Doughboys Worry Along Amid Hardwood Floors and Heavy Rugs

GENERAL MISSES OPERA

But Coblence Folk Have Excellent Excuse for Not Giving Command Performance

This is the story of the softships of the Third American Army. For the Yankee troops who were assigned to take and hold the Coblence bridgehead are leading the life of Riley on the Rhine.

They are stretching out at night in such billets as they never dreamed of in the days before the armistice. The officers and men are dwelling, all of them, in such comfort as they had not known since last their own front gates swung to behind them. They are living, some of them, in such elegance as they had never known before in all their days, nor will again. Every incident and circumstance of their daily existence is tremendously and dramatically different from what it would have been had the war gone on—and January with its rain and snow a-coming on.

The house that shelters the headquarters of the 32nd Division at Rengsdorf is the kind of modern palace our senators build when the Fifth Avenue urge is on them. The 1st Division staff is worrying along at Montabaur in such a structure as you would expect to find all planned in a "Town and Country" article under the title "How to Be Beautiful Though an Office Building." Now that the grenade-throwing season is over, the 166th Infantry has moved into a glass house at Oberwinter. Its regimental headquarters is basking in the solarium of a country club whose windowwalls look down on the magical Rhine which flows by to the strains not of the Lorelei, but of the regimental band at practice.

Not Only Generals

It is probable that when General Douglas MacArthur was dwelling in a fragrant French barn in the Argonne he little guessed that after his Christmas dinner he would have his coffee and cigar in the sumptuous billiard room of his own castle on the Rhine. He is unlikely ever to forget his present headquarters, and yet he will not remember it quite so vividly (or so fondly) as he will that château in St. Benoit where, at the time of the St. Mihiel drive, he scandalized the First American Army by setting up the headquarters of his brigade in the front line—three kilometers ahead of, not behind, his regimentals—there to stay till he was literally shelled out.

But not merely generals are at ease. Doughboys of lesser rank—such as privates—are billeted in hotels and cozy houses. Doughboys fresh (as the saying is) from a 300-kilometer hike across Europe can be heard and seen skidding

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9x4x3'S HERE IN TIME FOR SECOND A.E.F. CHRISTMAS

Children of France Remembered by Many Yankee Santa Clauses

GERMAN GEESE DISAPPEAR

Third Army Not Only Part of America in Europe to Have Candle-Lit Trees

With French children cuddled up against befriending Yanks all over France, and with virtually all of their 9x4x3's actually in hand, the A.E.F.'s second Christmas in France passed off with great eclat. Though celebrated 3,000 miles from home, it was in all respects truly American, truly heartening, absolutely satisfying.

There were few men who did not receive their 9x4x3 boxes from home in time for the great day. A week prior to Christmas fully 80 per cent of those boxes had been turned over by the Military Postal and Express Service to the regulating stations at the front, and practically the whole of the remaining 20 per cent reached their destinations within the week that followed.

Fifty-five carloads of the little pasteboard packages were sent up to the front from Brest alone. Twenty-seven were sped out of St. Nazaire and 12 more from Bordeaux. One of the Christmas package boats got in a bit late, but its contents were unloaded in record time, and if there is any member of the A.E.F., whose label was correctly addressed and who did not leave his station without furnishing a clear forwarding address who did not get his Christmas package at least by yesterday, the M.P.E.S. would like to know it.

St. Nazaire Typical

It is obviously impossible to chronicle here all the Christmas activities of the A.E.F., but what happened down at St. Nazaire is typical of what happened in thousands of towns stretched all the way from Gascony and the near-Spanish border right up into Rhenish Prussia.

At St. Nazaire the Yanks had 10,000 of their young French friends as guests, with real gifts pulled off real Christmas trees by real Santa Clauses. Engineers who have been over here since August, 1917, erected a mammoth tree in their camp grounds and invited in all the children of the countryside until their happy faces filled the camp, and the event became the talk of the town. Fruits, candy and clothes fairly rained off that tree.

At Camp 1 in St. Nazaire, 15,000 Yanks awaiting homebound boats were hosts to hundreds of children. They even forewent their issue candy to deck up the tree properly, and put on a Punch and Judy show that made their young friends squeal and chortle with glee. As the debarkation process is to boom in earnest from now on, that Christmas at the debarkation camp furnished those Yanks with practically their last memories of France, and precious memories they were indeed.

In the Leave Areas

In the various leave areas at the A.E.F.'s disposal, all the way from St. Malo on the Brittany coast to the warm shore of the Riviera, some 25,000 Yanks spent the day in celebration, song and reminiscence.

Geese were the main features of the Christmas celebration of the Army of Occupation, many a complacent frau exchanging her long-fatted fowl for the soap which the Yanks produced in abundance. Large, stolid, typically German geese were the mainstays of many a mess sergeant along the Rhine and behind and beyond, since the turkey, despite the late lamented alliance of Germany with the Sultan, does not thrive on German soil.

Every man in France and Germany should have received a Christmas package from the Y.M.C.A. unless he went out of his way to dodge it. Last Friday Y packages for the whole Third Army—including 80,000,000 cigarettes—were already at Metz, Trier and other railheads ready for distribution.

FLOUR BAG SCRAPINGS USED TO STUFF DOLLS

Best of it Goes for Poultry Feed, Rest to Toy Shops

It's quite some distance, all told, from Coblence, say, to the place reserved for a light-haired, blue-eyed doll under a Christmas tree somewhere in the States. But Uncle Sam, through the medium of the salvage department at Tours, bridges that tremendous span with all the thoroughness and wisdom borne of many months of fighting—and saving—on all his battle fronts.

Take that flour sack there, the one lying at the mess sergeant's feet. Its contents have just been emptied on behalf of the troops holding the Rhine bridgehead, or any bridgehead anywhere. There is a little flour left in the bottom of the sack, and there is a lot of it caked on the sides.

That sack, with several million others, goes to the salvage station and is there fed into a big hopper which steadily pounds out all the flour and cleans the bag.

The flour dust proper is carefully gathered and sold for poultry feed. The rest of it, much mixed with lint, is sold to make a kind of plaster used in doll-making.

And who can tell, in this era of coincidences, but that little Louise on Christmas morning did not receive her doll counterpart from Daddy across the seas made of flour from the very bag out of which he had eaten hot cakes some months before?

PRESIDENT TAKES HIS FIRST LEAVE AS A.E.F. MEMBER

Goes to London for Conference With British Statesmen

CHRISTMAS WITH HIS ARMY

Week in France Occupied by Informal Conversations With Allied Leaders

Today sees President Wilson in London. After spending Christmas with the A.E.F. in the area about Chaumont and Langres, he left France yesterday, arriving at Calais in the morning and reaching the British capital in the afternoon. He will return to France early next week.

Mr. Wilson left Paris for Chaumont at midnight Tuesday, arriving at the A.E.F.'s General Headquarters town the following morning. There he was met by General Pershing and conducted to the Hotel de Ville of Chaumont, where a brief ceremony which included speeches by the mayor and the prefect of the department of Haute-Marne was gone through with. This concluded, he motored with General Pershing and the French regional commander to the reviewing ground near Langres.

The big feature of his Christmas morning was the review of about 10,000 Yanks in the vicinity of Langres.

The President next motored to the headquarters of the 26th Division at Montigny-le-Roi, had Christmas dinner in an empty base hospital fixed up as a mess shack, visited more Yanks in billets, and generally chummed around with the Army. Imagine the doughboys' surprise on hearing that their Chief actually used the well-known issue mess kit.

The troops that passed before him included one battalion of the 6th Division, one from the 26th, one each from the 29th, the 77th, the 80th and the 82nd; artillery from the 77th Division, and two troops from the 6th Cavalry, plus auxiliary forces, such as ammunition and supply trains. Following the review, the President delivered an address to some troops in the neighborhood of the village of Humes.

About 3:30 in the afternoon he arrived back at Chaumont, where he attended a brief reception at General Pershing's château, meeting a number of high French and American officers. Six o'clock that evening saw him again on his special train bound for Calais.

With the President on his visit to the so-called "old training area" were Mrs. Wilson, Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, Miss Benham, Mrs. Wilson's secretary, and Messrs. Close and Swem, the President's confidential secretaries. Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, General Harts and a number of aides completed the party.

Getting Ready for Peace

The President's work during the week just past has been largely occupied with the informal conversations with Allied statesmen which constitute the necessary preliminaries to the formal discussions relative to the approaching peace conference. Already he has done a great deal of work, and seen a large number of prominent men whose views on the great problems to be discussed at the conference he wished to get at first hand. Besides King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, M. Clemenceau, French Premier, and M. Pichon, French foreign minister, he has conferred with Lord Derby, British Ambassador to France, with Count Romanones, Spanish Premier, with Signor Orlando and Baron Sonnino, Italian Premier and foreign minister respectively, and numerous others. In England he is to confer with David Lloyd George, Prime Minister, with Arthur J. Balfour, head of the British Foreign Office—who visited the United States a year and a half ago as head of the British mission—and with Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Last night the President dined with King George of England at Buckingham Palace, London, where he is the guest of the King and Queen. It is, by the way, the first time that that edifice has ever housed an American president as guest. Tonight the program provides for a dinner to the President, tendered by the Lord Mayor of London in the historic Guildhall, and tomorrow the President will visit Manchester, the heart of industrial England.

To Visit Mother's Home

Sunday the President will make a family pilgrimage, in strict privacy, to Carlisle, on the Scottish border, where his maternal grandfather preached in the little Wesleyan chapel more than 100 years ago. He will visit there the house where his mother was born, and generally renew his ties with the old city. That completed, he will return to London to hold further informal conferences and then entrain for a channel port to return to France.

From the point of view of the A.E.F., perhaps the most interesting of his acts during the week just past was the visit which the President made on Sunday morning to the American Hospital at Neuilly, just outside Paris. There he saw, shook hands with and talked with every one of the 1,200 Yanks who are now being nursed back to health there. He went out intending to stay an hour. He stayed four.

In the afternoon, the President visited the French hospital at Val de Grace, near Paris, where a number of American wounded are being taken care of. "I just want to go in and visit the boys and have a chat with them," was the way the President introduced himself at Neuilly. Through the wards he strolled, stopping at every cot, often to sit down on it and talk familiarly with the cot's inmate.

"We hope to have you back soon with us," he told a number of men, with a smile and a pat on the back. "I wish you the best of luck and a speedy recovery."

Private Thomas Wilson was one of the men whom the President met in his trips from ward to ward. And to Pri-

vato Wilson he said, "I am proud to know I have a namesake like you."

"It's a very honorable name," said the private to the President. "I only tried to do it proud."

But the thing that pleased the President most was the indomitable pluck and cheerfulness exhibited by the wounded men with whom he chatted. Typical of their spirit was the remark of the man who had lost both legs. When the President commiserated him on his misfortune, he merely grinned and said, "I'm only thankful they didn't get an arm."

It is small wonder that the President, when he left the hospital, repeated to himself in substance what he said in his message to Congress: "I am proud to be the fellow-countryman of such stuff and valor."

BILLETS DE LUXE FOR THIRD ARMY; ASK HANK GOWDY

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on rugs and clumping over gleaming, inlaid, hardwood floors, most painfully conscious of their hobnailed shoon.

Consider, for instance, Color Sgt. Hank Gowdy, of Headquarters Company, in the Ohio regiment of the Rainbow Division. Sgt. Hank, who recently resided in a somewhat insufficient indentation in a hillside near Exermont, now occupies with the senior color sergeant a suite of rooms in a Rhineland palace at Roaldseck.

The fittings are perfect, from the silken coverlets and the chaise longue to the jeweled bedside lamps. He never had such rooms before, even after the Braves won the World Series. From the windows he gets a matchless view of Roland's Castle, of the ruined silhouette of Drachenfels and of the Siebengebirge, receding in a haze-veiled panorama. He has acquired a guide-book which explains that the Seven Hills were placed there by the Giants.

"Jiminy Christmas," said Sgt. Gowdy, "it didn't happen when I was with them."

However, his favorite reading these days is the set of clippings which quote General March as saying that all the big league players would be recalled from the service in time for spring training. He has mailed one of them to Washington with the following:

1st Ind.

From Sgt. Hank Gowdy, Hqrs. Co., 166th Inf., Dec. 25, 1918—To General Peyton March, C. of S., U.S.A.

1. Returned. Approved.

Sgt. Gowdy, by the way, took two baths last week, which doubled his bathing average for the year.

In a Soft Drink Town

The 165th Infantry is living luxuriously at Remagen. But the friends of that murderous regiment can imagine what its personnel must have felt when they found themselves in the heart of the Apollinaris district, in the shadow of the Apollinaris church.

"And to think," said the 165th, "that they might just as well have sent us to this here now Roosenburg."

Father Duffy retired immediately to his room in the Burgomeister's house at Remagen and sent out word that he was indisposed. The 165th, though it has been mauled on every battlefield and repeatedly replenished by replacements, still shakes a wicked brogue. Faith and they're after calling the Rhine the River Ryan.

Life on the Rhine is made up of drill, chow, loafing, cleaning-up, sight-seeing and sleep. The drill is mild, the cleaning-up instinctive. Every horse shines these days like a good deed in a naughty world, and so does every doughboy, for the Rhineland may be described as a country of beautiful bathtubs, and there is scarcely a private in the Army of Occupation who does not look as though he were bucking for orderly.

The sight-seeing is pretty severely circumscribed, for there are limits, and grim-jawed sentries pace those limits. There is the opera, of course, in Coblence, but then Coblence is for the chosen few, and the unchosen many yearn for it as the Yank in France yearns for Paris.

Calling Off the Show

One of the most commanding officers in the Third American Army decided to accompany several officers of his staff last Friday evening to the opera, which temple of the arts has been doing a thriving business since the Americans hit town. It would scarcely be a command performance, and yet the general's intention to attend was not altogether unknown.

So when word reached the headquarters on Friday morning that the performance had been called off, it looked a little suspicious. You see, Coblence is under suspicion of being a trifle pro-German. Better be looked into. So three sleuths of the intelligence department glided silently out. An hour later they glided in again and their report was filed. It was brief but assuring. The opera house had burned down.

As a matter of fact, it had not burned down entirely. There had just been a bad back-stage blaze in the scenery. The fire was attended by everybody in town, and a good old fire-line was promptly established by our M.P.'s, who could not help thinking of home when all but one nozzle in the local fire apparatus failed to work. It seems that the receding German Army had carried off all the good ones, to the considerable annoyance of the local population.

The local firemen, by the way, had some difficulty in attending the fire, as our conscientious M.P.'s feared they were violating the order against Germans appearing in uniform. The German postmen and trolley-car motormen lead troubled existences these days for the same reason.

French Give Performance

There are movies, too, at Coblence, and then there was the show put on for the Americans and the natives by the French.

Nothing could have been much more striking than the contrast between the French and American methods of entering Coblence. The Americans sort of dropped in in their casual manner, which so grievously disappoints those who crave a grand entry. Not so the French, when they passed through the city last Friday as a sort of gesture.

When the Americans entered Coblence, they trundled in on a slow-poke German train, dropped out at the railroad station, marched to the nearest barracks and went to sleep. When the French came there river boats brought them down the Rhine at noon to the kind of music that sets the blood a-dancing, the drums thumping an accompaniment to the horns, while the cymbals crashed and the shrill whine of the Arabian reed-pipe sounded clear from shore to shore.

Before the review by General Dickman, the disembarking French were met (accidentally) by a detachment of 16 American soldiers ambling along the quay. To the French this must have seemed a rather indifferent escort for such an occasion, and it is hoped they learned later it was no official deputation—merely the local AWOL's out for an airing under guard.

The Americans were much gratified by a nice touch in the arrangements for the ceremony. They could not help noticing that Marshal Foch had thought to send one of the regiments down on the Elberfeld, a craft evidently named after that famous Yank third baseman.

Glories of Ancient Rhineland

In each divisional area there is some glory of the ancient Rhineland to visit. On the road that lies between Trier and Coblence stands a beautiful lakeside monastery—Kloster Laach—whose basilica is wrinkled with a thousand memories of the 12th century. There is such a tomb there as Westminster would be proud to shelter. Even to this day monks labor and pray there within a cloister whose stained-glass windows must have shut out the spectacle of a world at war, and through whose thick walls the moan of agonized mankind must have come very, very faintly.

To this spot lately many American pilgrims have come, some to pray, some to stare in wonder at the high altar which William of Hohenzollern gave to the monastery, some so they could send home some such side-splitting postcard as this: "Visited the Benedictine monks today and found them very cordial."

One visitor was a young American lieutenant whose brigade had done immortal things in the war and who was feeling sort of swanky in his shining, spurred boots after the dreary mud of Champagne and the Argonne. He could not help swaggering just a little bit, and even when he was led into the high-ceilinged library, with its treasures of ancient volumes, he could not help saying something about the fine library in New York. The monk reached to the nearest shelf and handed him a Bible printed at Cologne in Latin and most exquisitely illuminated in that rare scarlet the old texts show.

"Gee!" said the lieutenant, with the dawnings of respect, "some book. Pretty old, I guess."

And he looked at the title page. The date was there. Very likely the monk had meant him to see it. It was 1491.

Exit lieutenant, thoughtfully.

Yes, the Yanks in the land of Schmidt are leading the life of Riley. But he would be a false chronicler who pretended for a moment that they were not most desperately homesick.

And more than all else, one thing made the Army of Occupation homesick the week before Christmas. It was not the comfortable modern houses. The very sight of the eminently American plumbing gave the men a certain nostalgia, but it was not that. It was not the orchards, though they are eloquent of home. It was not even the shopwindows all bright with Christmas favor and tinsels.

It was none of these. It was the rows upon rows of Christmas trees for sale in public squares. Their high fir points, where one might easily conjure up the topmost, wobbly candle—Mother would be in such panic for fear it would set the tree afire—these points it was that pierced the Yankee to the heart.

"AS IF FATHERS HAD LIVED," AIM FOR FUTURE OF A.E.F.'S ORPHANS

Continued from Page 1

ing worked out. It involves the principle upon which the Orphan Department and the educational and child welfare experts of the Red Cross have been doing a lot of thinking lately—the principle that, the war over and our 3,444 children assured of a home and physical comfort for a year, and the A.E.F. going home (cries of "Yes, yes, go on!") some day, we have a wonderful opportunity to extend and exploit tremendously the good we have already done. We have decided to continue the fund, not building broader, but higher.

As If Fathers Had Lived

In execution the scheme will be largely educational. We will take this family of ours and, as far as our means and circumstances permit, give the children something of the kind of opportunity they would have had if their fathers had not died fighting for liberty. The plan includes training in the various trades, in professions, an education in several lines for the girls, and probably the establishment of a few scholarships for those who show the most promise. The children will be selected according to capability and adaptability.

This is just an intimation of the plan. It will be explained in detail as soon as possible. In the meantime the Continuation Fund has been established, and every franc that we can get a-hold of will go into it. It is the children's savings bank. And the 78,000 francs from the Signal Corps Replacement Depot were the first coins to jingle.

After the Close

The other 45,000-odd francs which jingle when it is rattled now are mostly money which arrived in THE STARS AND STRIPES office after the closing of adoptions and the determination of the final total of the family. Some of it was sent in with that understanding. Some of it was sent in for new adoptions. Of the latter class is some which ought to have got in by the closing hour, which was noon of Tuesday, December 17, a day longer than it was originally intended to keep open.

For the benefit of those who assisted in those contributions which ought to have been here, but weren't, however, the Red Cross committee has arranged to allot children which, although already in THE STARS AND STRIPES family, do not know who their specific godfathers are.

There were some contributors, for instance, who sent in their money and forgot to send their addresses. Others remained purely anonymous, even on our records. The children adopted in their name, therefore, have nobody to write to and the committee in charge has nobody to report to. These will be accredited to the donors of the belated contributions, and everybody will be happy all around, although the second contributions will remain intact until the first year's contribution is exhausted.

It should be stated that arrangements are being made to keep the children and their adoptors in touch after the A.E.F. leaves France. It is intended to maintain a letter forwarding and translation service as long as the family exists. Also, as far as possible, individual children and groups of children adopted by A.E.F. members and units will be encouraged to keep in touch with each other.

Just Like a Rumor

At the Signal Corps Replacement Depot the gathering of the orphan fund started like the old training camp rumor, "We're going to Russia tomorrow." It went off like a fire in a paint factory.

One Field Signal Battalion—the 113th pledged $3,500 about as quick as the amounts could be listed. In the 114th Battalion every man without exception subscribed 20 francs. It was payday time. The organizations which contributed were:

The 106th, 109th, 113th, 114th, 300th, 311th, 321st and 323rd Field Signal Battalions, the 420th, 421st, 422d and 423rd Telegraph Battalions, the 116th Field Signal Battalion, in replacement, and the Replacement Depot Battalion.

There were several other sizable contributions aside from the S.C. men. From Gièvres, Chaplain Eugene B. Smith, of the Engineer Sub Post, forwarded a check for 8,000 francs gathered from Engineers, Infantrymen and Marines. From Base Hospital No. 33, in England, came enough pounds, shillings and pence to make 4,297.30 francs. The sum was collected largely by Cpl. Bernard H. Blum, mail orderly, from officers, nurses, enlisted men and patients. Both of these contributions came in as adoptions. Both came late, and to both allotments will be made, as explained before.

Young Women Help

The personnel of the Supplies Division, Office of the Chief Q.M., sent 601 francs, to which some young women members of the A.E.F. were contributors. They asked for a girl.

The 20th Engineer (Forestry) troops at Eclaron had a family of four orphans, but decided that "another little orphan wouldn't do any harm." One of the sawyers gathered the necessary money in double time. Then it was decided to raffle off the godfathership. Sgt. 1st Cl. Ora G. Storer won it. Trust those sergeants first class.

H. P. Folsom, Sr. of Circleville, Ohio, sent $100 to adopt a child in memory of his son, Sgt. Henry Page Folsom, of the Machine Gun Company, 166th Infantry, Rainbow Division, killed between Château-Thierry and Fère-en-Tardenois on July 27.

The Ordnance Department is still going strong, the contributions coming from so many directions that there can't be any computation yet. The donations include many fractional contributions. These, until December 17, were combined for the adoption of children. Since then they have gone into the Continuation Fund.

The Motor Transport Corps, which has adopted several dozen child mascots in the last few months, has decided the holiday souvenir number of its official paper, "The Steering Wheel," to the war orphans and, what is more, the proceeds of the issue. Capt. C. H. Bailey, himself the father of seven children, was editor of the edition.

Big and Rough? Ask Us

"A lot of us," said "The Steering Wheel" in its dedication, "on the surface seem to be big and rough, and not a bit gentle and sentimental. Being guide, philosopher and friend to an unruly motor truck isn't conducive to gentleness or sentimentality. But just the same we've noticed occasionally some of the very roughest of us packing some little French kid on his shoulder with a kindliness and a gentleness that kid's own mother couldn't beat.

"The children of France, by liking us and making companions of us, have given us more than we have given them. We've adopted many of them, but, better still, many of them have adopted us, which is a wonderful compliment, for the little people are very wise and they know enough not to adopt grown-ups who are not all right."

This week's contributions to the Continuation Fund are:

Signal Corps Repl. Depot, Cour-Cheverny	78,000 00
Lt. Milton Herman, 11th F.A.	30 00
Base Hospital No. 48	500 00
Co. K, 348th Inf.	500 00
Co. B, Co. L, Hq. Co., 30th Engrs.; Co. A, Co. B, 526th Engrs.; 11th Fin.; Co. D, 56th Engrs.; Co. D, 345th Inf.; Co. H, 11th Marines; Detch., Inter. Eng. Supply Depot Engrs. Sub. Post, C.O.'s Mess	8,000.00
Geo. B. McClellan Women's Relief Corps, Houston, Texas	478.07
Co. H, 361st Inf.	500.00
Battery D, 334th F.A.	1,000.00
Battery A, 317th F.A.	499.00
Base Hosp. No. 33	4,297.30
Mrs. Mary B. Gibbon, Sparta, Wis.	10.00
Evacuation Hosp. No. 6	503.40
Maj. Roy Taylor	500.00
Co. A, 4th Engrs.	500.00
Officers, Base Hosp. No. 14	500.00
Co. B, 326th Bn., Tank Corps	500.00
119th, M.O.R.S.	150.00
113th, M.O.R.S.	500.00
114th, M.O.R.S.	1,000.00
115th, M.O.R.S.	100.00
309th, M.O.R.S.	520.00
311th, M.O.R.S.	80.00
3rd C.A.P., M.O.R.S.	608.00
Maj. C. F. Judson, Capt. H. N. Blake, Capt. A. J. Hudson	300.00
Capt. A. B. Walton, Lt. G. W. Hotchkiss, Lt. J. B. Jenkins, Lt. M. L. W. Craig	200.00
Lt. W. C. Skinner	500.00
Lt. Y. S. Marion	30.00
Lt. L. R. Choate	20.00
Lt. William Daly and Lt. H. M. Metcalf	501.40
Andrew Veraguth, St. Joseph, Mo.	54.50
2nd Bn., 307th Engrs.	500.00
159th Aero Squadron	500.00
Co. L, 23rd Engrs.	500.00
Hosp. Center, Savenay (Chaplain J. W. Cochran)	208.00
Anonymous (three donors)	116.50
Engineering Div., Office Chief O.D.	4,577.43
Capt. Royal B. Daggett and 15 men of O.D.	250.00
Jessie L. Arms, Iowa City, Iowa	15.45
Inter. Ord. Depot No. 2	550.35
Convalescent Camp, Nantes	510.00
1st Co., 4th Mechs. Regt., A.S.	513.31
106th Co., Trans. Corps	500.00
402nd Telegraph Bn.	1,500.00
Naval Base Hosp. No. 2, Strathpeffer, Scotland	103 60
Camp, U.S. Troops, Mehun, O.R.S., Detch.	1,252.18
In memory of Sgt. Henry Page Folsom, Jr.	515.00
Edward M. H. Knapp	54.00
Co. A, 117th Engrs.	500.00
20th Engineer Troops (Forestry), Eclaron, Haute Marne	500.00
Enlisted Personnel, Base Hosp. No. 31	1,326.00
Officers' Mess, Groupe Lamale, Reserve Mallet	1,000.00
Echelon Americain, Park P, U.S.A.A.S., with the French Army	1,250.00
Co. F, 347th Inf.	500.00
Wagoner Winestock, Co. D, 316th Am. Tn.	272.50
Co. A, 30th Labor Bn.	500.00
Civilian and Enl. Personnel, Supplies Div., Office Chief Q.M.	601.50
Camp Hosp. No. 33	1,000.00
104th Battery, Trench Art.	506.00
Co. K, 56th Engrs.	2,600.00
Total	123,047.49

In addition to the money received in units of 500 francs for the adoption of children many smaller contributions and several larger ones—collections taken at meetings, and so forth, which represented the donation of no specific A.E.F. organization—have come into the Orphan department. This was put in a miscellaneous fund.

From this fund money has been taken from time to time to make up second payments on children adopted and partially paid for by A.E.F. units which, through disorganization and from other causes, could not meet their second obligation. Receipts to this fund, since September 13, the day they were last acknowledged, have been as follows:

Co. C, 5th Field Sig. Bn., 103 francs; Jewish Soldiers at Romorantin, 56.20; Lt. Edward M. Fox, 68; "Aunt Belle," New York City, 25; "Cousin Ed," Philadelphia, Pa., 55; Mme. V. Despois, Paris, 10; Miss Hannah Buckley, San Francisco, Calif., 200; 329th Infantry (Chaplain Smith), 25; Pvt. Walter J. Marks, 60; Amity Savings Club, New York City, 250; Pvt. J. R. Roth, 150; Pvt. John H. Barrett, 32; A Member of 486th Squadron, 15; J. W. Crippen, Y.M.C.A., 280; Six Members of Officers' Mess, Staff of Col. R. O. Mason, 130; Lt. Gladwin Bouton, 305; 304th Machine Gun Bn. (Pvt. S. D. Boyer, Pvt. S. Anderson, Pvt. M. J. Lamb, W. G. Turner), 97.20; Lt. W. F. Walker, 183.25; Co. C, 5th Field Bn., S.C., 103; Capt. Ebson, 84, 329th Infantry, 25; Paul A Billings, Detroit, Mich., 16.17; Noah Seedman, A.F.C., 125; Officers, Hq., A.A.S., 165; Lt. R. C. Morse, 209; Lt. Douglas G. Alden, 200; Sgt. R. Graham, 20; Pvt. George E. Harrison, 40; Maj. C. P. Watson, 27.50; Maj. D. H. Docker, 20; Maj. A. C. Rogers, 20; Maj. S. A. B. Hammer, 20; 76th Division (Chaplain K. C. McArthur), 668; Maj. F. F. McIntosh, 275; Louis Heerbach, 27.50; Cpl. Milton W. Stern, 5; Lt. Robert D. Glenn, 8; Andrew S. Keith, 5; Mrs. J. L. Sawyer, Paris, 100; Joseph P. Connolly, 25; Wagoner Richard D. Downey, 5; American Detch. A.S., Crail, Scotland, 110; Officers and Enl. Men, Office Deputy Chief Ord. Officer, 120; Pvt. Charles Johnson, 50; Co. A, 105th Am. Tr., 70; R. L. Hansford, 5; 30th Balloon Co., 141; Co. F, 113th Am. Tr., 88; Miss Catherine Jones, Waurika, Okla., 29.40; W. G. Turner, New York City, 55; Maj. Herman L. Dillingham, 50; Richard C. Jones, 27.50; Miss LeFleur, Miss Heitkamp, Lt. Howard, Lt. Bloom, Lt. Rogers, 196.70; Frances C. Dudley, 25; Mrs. J. V. Hofmann, Stahler, Wash., 55; Ord. Dept., 1st Army, 686; Robert Stotlar, Herrin, Ill., 213; Heavy Art. Training Bn., Paris, 50; Drafting Div., Tech. Sect., A.S., 10; Marion Woodworth, 100; Ord. Detch., Army School, 90.80; Pvt. Earl F. Roberts, 5; Cpl. A. B. Conrad, 10; Pvt. M. Finkelstein, 5; Lt. Col. John G. Winter, 200; Lt. Col. B. O. Lewis, 100; Col. M. F. Ramsey, 100; Lt. Col. Thomas F. Brown, 50; Lt. Casper Reith, 172.75; Supply Co., 334th F.A., 200; Capt. J. Stanford Evans, 59.45; W. L. Shellabarger, Decatur, Ill., 5.50; Elmer J. Hyberger, 5; Officers, Adm. Sect., Office C. of A.S., 250; Lt. Charles B. Spencer, 100; Chaplain James Cannon, 50; St. Thomas Senior Chapter, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Brooklyn, N.Y., 5.50; 4th Co., 3rd Regt., A.S. Mechs., 100; A. J. Willis, Rockford, Ill., 13.75; Miss Lena Rivers, San Diego, Calif., 10; Capt. George E. Shaw, 83; 311th F.A., 200; Anonymous, 107.

TO UNITS GOING HOME

Members and units of the A.E.F. bound for home who have adopted French war orphans are advised that the correspondence and translation service of the Red Cross Orphan Bureau will still be available to them in keeping touch with their mascots.

Individual adoptors are asked to forward their home addresses to THE STARS AND STRIPES Bureau, American Red Cross, Hotel Regina, Paris.

Units which are about to be demobilized are asked to delegate one of their members to keep in touch with their wards and have him notify the Red Cross of his address. The children and their relatives are extremely anxious to keep in touch with their benefactors.

GRADS GET CERTIFICATES

More than 500 soldier students at the A.E.F. Artillery officers' training school at Saumur are receiving certificates instead of commissions when they complete their courses, as one result of the War Department's policy in stopping the awarding of commissions after November 11. The school is expected to close in January.

Students with certificates are being returned to duty, in most instances through replacements camps.

Many of those who had expected to be graduated from the school in the November class had purchased their officers' uniforms and equipments before the armistice came.

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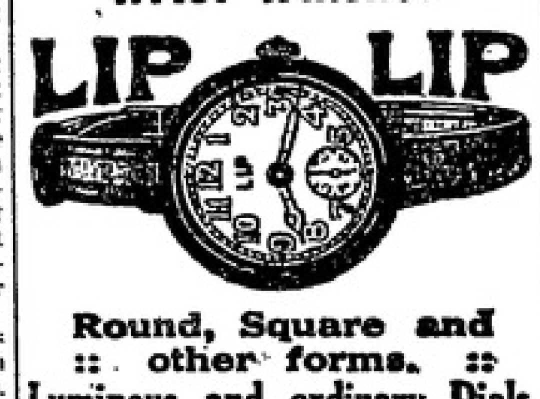

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CREED

Believing that the peace of the world and the progress of mankind can be largely helped by the unity in purpose of the English-speaking democracies, we pledge ourselves to promote by every means in our power a good understanding between the peoples of the United States of America and the British Commonwealth.

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Headquarters are in Philadelphia, Pa., and London, England. Please join up today and so become a link in the practical League of Nations right now. Membership costs $5 (£1 English or 26 francs French coinage) which includes the receipt of monthly Magazine and membership list. Already members of the English-Speaking Union are to be found all over the world and the chain will be incomplete without you.

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ST. NAZAIRE SENDS 10,000 BACK HOME; PAPER WORK HUMS

Christmas Day Sees Transports Well on Way Westward

CLERICAL DETAILS GALORE

G.H.Q. Bulletin and G.O. Give Instructions on Records Still to Be Cleaned Up

Christmas week saw thousands of American soldiers sail for home. Christmas Day itself found thousands of them on the high seas, with the prows of their amply, if not gaudily, lit transports pointing their noses at the setting sun. The port of St. Nazaire alone was the scene of embarkation of 10,000 troops, the largest number that have yet set out westward from the landing place of the first expedition a year ago June.

At the same time, G.H.Q. has made public in two announcements a long series of instructions, the import of which is "Hustle up that paper work." One of these, Bulletin 90, begins with this statement, so important that it is printed in capital letters:

Organization commanders serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe whose organizations are not scheduled to return to the United States within two months of the date of this bulletin will at once take the necessary steps to comply with the instructions contained herein.

Organizations returning to the United States within two months of the date of this bulletin are authorized to suspend action until their arrival in the United States.

Lots of Paper Work Details

The bulletin outlines in detail the steps necessary to clear up questions of allotments, insurance, service record notations, new forms, court martial charges and a mess of other details.

The second announcement, G.O. 224, is concerned with terms for the monthly return issued by the Adjutant General and systems of recording data for companies, regiments, headquarters, posts, camps, divisions, departments, corps and armies.

Meanwhile paper work and all, sailings for home continue. The steamers Ryndam and Princess Matoika carried most of the troops which formed St. Nazaire's record. The homegoers were about evenly divided between wounded and combatants.

The steamer Antigone took 2,500 men, members of Artillery and Aviation units, including many aviators who had been in France since June, 1917. Among the Princess Matoika's passengers was Col. J. N. Goodwyn, Stevedore chieftain of St. Nazaire. Colonel Goodwyn suffered a complete nervous breakdown following the furious activity of the port Race to Berlin. He is 37 years old and one of the A.E.F.'s youngest colonels.

Sailings from Brest included the steamer George Washington, which brought President Wilson to France. She left with troops two days after her arrival.

Incoming steamers are getting great receptions on the other side. New York tooted sirens and whistles in regular armistice style when the Mauretania docked recently with troops from England.

General Staff Officers Arrive

The machinery relative to the departure of troops from St. Nazaire will be supervised by two General Staff officers, who have just been sent to the port by Gen. Pershing. These officers are Lt. Col. C. Burnett and Lt. Col. J. J. Johnson, the former being senior officer and Chief of Staff, G-1, for St. Nazaire. They have just located in St. Nazaire and established an office in base headquarters. They will have entire charge, under the Commander-in-Chief, of the billeting of troops at St. Nazaire, pending their sailing.

For each thousand men who return to the United States the following Y.M.C.A. supplies will be put on the transport:

One motion picture machine, 20 reels, one or two Victrolas, one folding organ, 300 song sheets, six rope quoits, 75 checker games, 30 sets of dominoes, five sets of chess, some musical instruments, jazz band, one stereopticon and slides, four boxing gloves and medicine ball.

Five thousand sheets writing paper, two quarts fountain pen ink, two gross pens, two gross pencils, one jar paste, 2,000 postcards, four gross germicidal soap, two blackboards, one gross buttons, one-half gross needles, one-half gross thread, telegraph blanks, General Foch's message, two Y.M.C.A. banners.

Five cases A.L.A. books, 100 magazines, 125 "Stars and Stripes," 130 "Association Men," educational pamphlets, 100 song books, 100 New Testaments, 19 Bibles, 10 Jewish Bibles, "decision cards," Y membership tickets, religious pamphlets.

For the sick and wounded, one case lemons on each transport, and more on the transports for wounded, three gross bouillon tubes, chocolate, cigarettes, enos salts, chewing gum, lemon drops.

LUXEMBOURG TAKES A LAST LOOK AT THEM

Signal Corps Photo.

The tail end of the German invasion trailing home through the capital of the little duchy just ahead of the vanguard of the Third American Army.

BAGGAGE WILL BE RETURNED TO U.S. ALONG WITH OWNER

Effort to Have Soldier and Property Sail on Same Transport

SPECIAL SERVICE FORMED

Gievres Depot Alone Has 250,000 Barrack Bags Belonging to Enlisted Personnel of A.E.F.

Although there are several million trunks and barrack bags in France belonging to officers and men of the A.E.F., and hundreds of thousands of pieces of baggage are in storage at places distant from the stations of its owners, practically all baggage will be returned to the States at the same time as its owner goes, and, so far as practicable, on the same boat.

This is the announcement of the Baggage Service, newly formed as a part of the Q.M.C., which has started to collect complete information on all the baggage of members of the A.E.F.

The Baggage Service expects to identify and cause the return to owners or their relatives of thousands of pieces of unclaimed baggage, in both Army and private storage.

As a part of its task, the Baggage Service will take care of 250,000 barracks bags belonging to enlisted men and 27,000 pieces of officers' baggage, mostly trunks, now in storage at the baggage depot at Gièvres. This represents roughly 15 per cent of the Army's personal baggage in France.

Baggage in Private Storage

Collection of baggage in private storage will be one of the hardest parts of the new work. Every large hotel in Paris and at many other American centers is jammed with luggage of officers, much of it incompletely labeled. In addition, one American express company has more than 10,000 pieces stored in France, and an English concern is caring for 18,000. Authority has been asked to permit the Baggage Service to take charge of unclaimed baggage in private storage, to pay charges accumulated and to hold the baggage subject to collection of such charges paid.

One thousand carloads of baggage belonging to American divisions which landed at channel ports, Le Havre particularly, are now on railroad sidings in the district near Calais.

The baggage near Calais, as well as at many other points, accumulated when the United States began its speeding up of troops policy last spring. In many cases divisions moved so rapidly to the front and have moved so often since that their baggage has never since overtaken them. During the whole series of gigantic campaigns of summer and fall, baggage transportation facilities were decidedly impaired.

Information Is Sought

Official requests have been forwarded to zone majors, town majors, hospital commanding officers and other officers in charge of districts or units where baggage is stored asking that information concerning all such baggage may be forwarded to the Baggage Service.

Hospitals are also asked to report on the location of the baggage of all sick and wounded men now patients, so that this baggage may be collected and available when the patients return to the United States.

The Graves Registration Service is co-operating with the new Baggage Service to insure return to their relatives in the States of the baggage of soldiers listed as dead. All casualty lists are checked and verified. The Effects Bureau of the G.R.S. at St. Nazaire lists all property of deceased soldiers and turns it over to the Baggage Service for disposition.

Under the terms of G.O. 62, Hq., S.O.S., the Baggage Service will establish depots and shipping points for baggage at base ports and inland points in France, and a central storage and distributing point in the United States. A central baggage office has been established at Gièvres, and will handle all inquiries from officers and men.

Baggage of officers and men belonging to an organization ordered to return to the States will be collected and shipped to the organization when called for by the organization commander. Casuals ordered to return to the States will arrange with the Central Baggage Office, A.P.O. 713, for the collection and shipment of their baggage. Other owners of baggage not coming in the two foregoing classifications are expected to write to the Central Baggage Office, designating the location and disposition of their property.

Unidentified baggage in A.E.F. storage will be opened under the supervision of a commissioned officer of the Baggage Service to ascertain the name of the owner.

All the 250,000 barrack bags stored at Gièvres already have been opened and all government property in them removed as salvage.

Lost Baggage Bureau

It is emphasized, however, that the Lost Baggage Bureau, D.G.T., will continue to operate insofar as baggage lost in transit by rail or water is concerned. Such baggage remaining undelivered after a period of one month will be transferred to the Baggage Service (Q.M.C.). The Lost Baggage Bureau will constantly inform the Central Baggage Service of the baggage in possession of the former.

In general, the new Baggage Service will have complete charge of baggage arrangements, which hitherto have varied widely with different organizations. In addition to the baggage stored at Gièvres, many divisions had maintained district dumps, and there are numerous baggage stores of organizations at base ports.

IF YOUR BAGGAGE IS LOST

All members of the A.E.F. in doubt as to the whereabouts of their baggage are asked to communicate with the Baggage Service, Gièvres (A.P.O. 713), giving name, rank, original and present organization, complete description of articles and telling when and where the baggage was last seen or heard of.

Any officer or enlisted man in custody of baggage and uncertain as to its disposition is asked to notify the Baggage Service, also.

THE SERGEANT AND TINY TIM

Ever since the sergeant was five years old he had observed Christmas Day by reading Dickens' "The Christmas Carol." It began when he used to hear his father read it aloud under the evening lamp and continued when he could lie in front of the fire and spell the words out for himself. He might forget this tribal custom till Christmas came, but there was the book always at hand on the shelf. This until Christmas approached in 1917, and he found himself in Brittany with December waning fast and not a sign of a copy in the outfit nor a trace of a translation in the little village. Then, by a freak of circumstance, he found himself shifted just before Christmas to Paris, and, slipping down to one of the shops on the Rue de Rivoli, he possessed himself of the sacred book.

Now he is on the Rhine. There stared him in the face the prospect of having to read the Christmas story in Germany. It was bad enough to start out like this: "Marley war tot, damit wollen wir anfangen." It was worse to discover that: "Der alte Marley war so tot wie ein Türnägel." The last straw was to hear Tiny Tim give this heathenish benediction: "Gott segne jeden von uns."

But it had to be gone through with. As for the rest of Herr Dickens, it can wait till we get home. The sergeant has no mind to peruse "Die Pickwickier," for instance. Think of having to sit quietly by when Sam Weller is made to say "Ganz recht" instead of "Wery well, sir!"

FORESTERS SET RECORD

Forestry units operating in Base Section No. 2 have broken all records for turning out lumber for A.E.F. needs.

For October, headquarters called for a grand total of 218,000 ties in order that the railroad work in progress and projected might be carried out. The foresters went headquarters one better and turned out a grand total of 247,000 ties, and that in addition to all other lumber of various sizes.

A feature of the big effort made by the foresters was a contest between the units operating at the cities of Dax, Pontenx and Mimizan. The records of the three districts for October in board feet follows: Dax, 6,300,000; Pontenx, 5,700,000; Mimizan, 4,400,000.

The grand total of lumber turned out in Base Section No. 2 in October was 16,400,000 board feet, or 3,400,000 board feet better than September.

CLOTHES DO NOT MAKE THE SOLDIER

But They Do Make a Lot of Difference to Women, Even in War

They're all the same, the women, the world over, and even in this man's war. Witness, for instance, the little feminine flurry that nearly added gray hairs to the military chiefs holding forth at the American Salvage depot at Tours. Clothes did it—as usual.

There came from some mysterious sources a few thousand yards of cream white cloth. It may be drill and it may not. It isn't canvas or silk or gingham. That much is certain to the very lay, masculine mind. Moreover, it wasn't O.D., nor anything resembling military fish, flesh or good red herring expressed in terms of Army clothing.

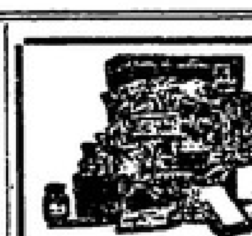
What to do with it? That, as Mr. Hamlet once succinctly pointed out, was the question.

And then from some mysterious, forgotten corner of the mind the idea leaped forth—and it was the idea of a genius—that the stuff might be made over into natty, cute, becoming uniforms for the women working in the clothing department. Fine! The thing was done. But—

There were whisperings, faint but mighty, at the colonel's office door;
There were protests, tales of slighting, as if some one might be sore.
Why be partial, echoes echoed, why not give us all a hood?
And the colonel, ever watchful, heard—and smiled—and understood.

And that's why all the women at the American Salvage Depot at Tours are going to get those nifty uniforms.

The Quartermaster Casual Camp at Chateau de Loir will be known in future as Camp Clayton in honor of the late Colonel Bertram T. Clayton, Q.M.C., who was killed May 30 while on duty as Quartermaster of the First Division. The change in name is made in G.O. 64, Headquarters, S.O.S.



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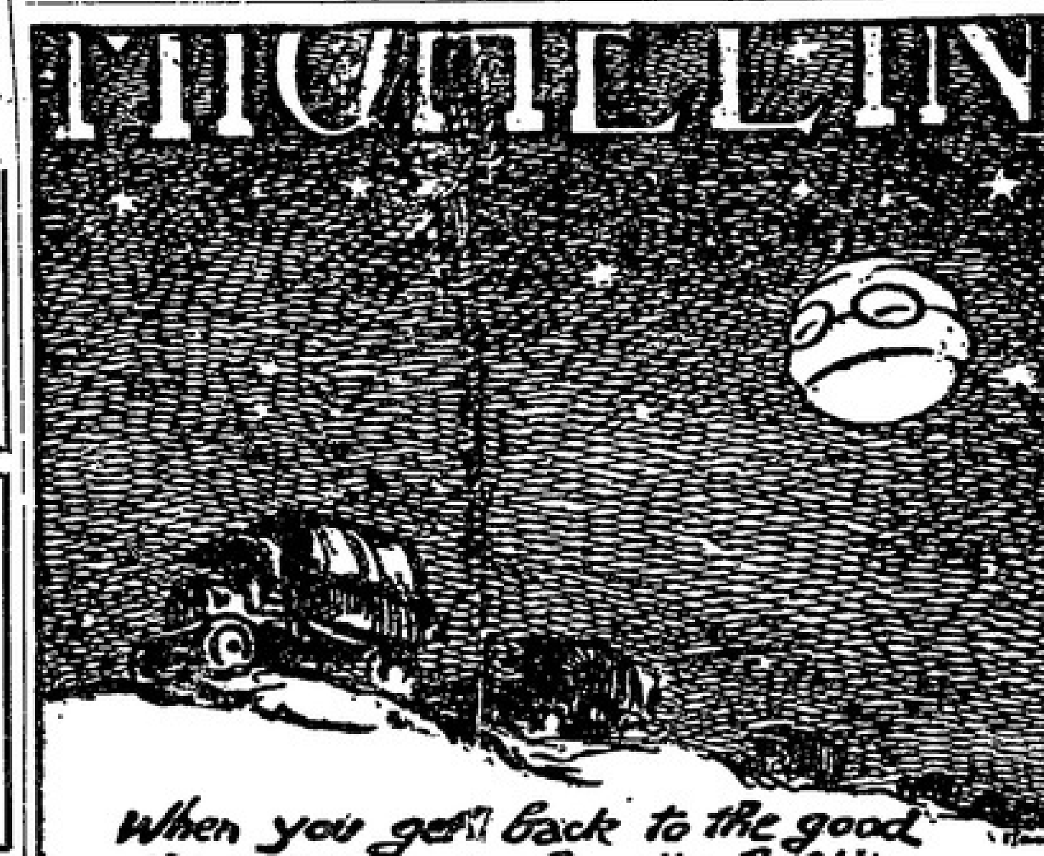

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The official publication of the American Expeditionary Forces; authorized by the Commander-in-Chief, A.E.F.

Written, edited and published every week by and for the soldiers of the A.E.F., all profits to accrue to subscribers' company funds.

Entered as second class matter at United States Army Post Office, Paris, France.

Guy T. Viskniskki, Capt., Inf., Officer in Charge.

Advertising Director for the United States and Canada: A. W. Erickson, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Fifty centimes a copy. No subscriptions taken. Advertising rates on application.

THE STARS AND STRIPES, G-2, A.E.F., 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris, France. Telephone, Gutenberg, 12.95.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918.

3,444

The end of the War Orphan Adoption Campaign finds the A.E.F. poorer to the extent of nearly two million francs — something less than a franc a man—but infinitely richer in those qualities of good-will and loving-kindness which cannot be reckoned in centimes or cents.

But to stick to the francs, which are easier to compute. Imagine the whole A.E.F. consolidated into one single buck private, and that two million francs would represent his pay for just about an even thousand years. Well, it *was* a long war while it lasted.

And the good-will? It is capital invested in two places at the same time, which cannot ordinarily be done. It is a cable system more powerful than that which Cyrus Field paid out behind him—a cable system of exactly 3,444 strands, with every strand leading straight to the heart of a child of France.

AT THE OLD GAME

Old John Boche, though he knows in his heart that he has been beaten, is living on in the fond hope that the Allies will beat themselves by getting into squabbles both before and during the peace conference.

That is why a goodly number of his right-hand men and women are amongst us today, telling us what fair-weather friends these professing Allies of ours are, telling our Allies what fair-weather friends we are, recounting and magnifying a lot of nebulous anecdotes out of the misty past, and so forth and so on.

It is Old John's old game. He is using the only weapon he has left. And he will make hay with it with a vengeance if he can only get some people among the Allies to pass along his propaganda for him—to remove, as it were, the Boche label from his line of talk.

THE LOST LEGIONS

It was a pleasure to announce last week the names and locations of those A.E.F. units which, instead of coming to France or England, were sidetracked into Hungary, northern Italy and the inhospitable Arctic snows of Russia. It is a pleasure—and also something of a coincidence — that we are this week about to print, in another part of this page a letter from a member of the A.E.F. who belongs to one of the lost legions, a most lost of all, except for the boys in Siberia, and some of them are nearer home than we in France or Germany are.

Our cartoonist, when asked if he could not accede to Corporal Knight's request for a series of sketches on life around Archangel, replied that Siberia and Russia were all one to him, and that if he were to draw any Russians they would only be Siberians in disguise. Rather than attempt this nature-fake on an easily roused world, he prefers to stand on his earlier productions.

Art aside, though, we are glad to hear from Corporal Knight and the 339th. To them we extend the glad hand of A.E.F. fellowship—not hands across the sea, exactly, but, rather, if we remember the map correctly, hands across Germany.

THE FIFTH VIRTUE

Cowardice, selfishness, stinginess and bragging—those are the four vices of the soldier as the soldier himself decided by plebiscite some months ago. The fact that fighting is over does not alter their applicability. The good soldier is still the courageous, the unselfish, the generous, the modest soldier.

There remains to be added a fifth virtue, the virtue of patience. It is good any time. It helped to beat the Germans, both in the whole grand strategic scheme of victory and in the plan for every minor patrol between the lines. It has made the most competent K.P.'s; it has made the best generals.

It took patience for men to save themselves when they were caught in shell holes and had to wait many days and nights before they could effect their own liberation. It takes patience, these days, to wait for the boat. It is just as fine a kind of patience—and a whole sight harder kind to practise.

THE GRAND REVIEW

The topic of post-armistice discussion that crops up most often in these discussion-full days (after "When are we going home?") is, "Are they going to have a big parade for us when we get back, and where is it going to be?" The launching of that question can start a good two-hour wrangle around the old issue stove, a knock-down and drag-out sectional squabble, in any barracks or billet in France or Germany.

The Bostonians, of course, want that parade to go down Tremont Street and debouch upon Boston Common, scene of America's earliest struggle for liberty. The New Yorkers, of course, want it to start from the Washington Arch and proceed up Fifth Avenue to Columbus Circle, thence across town and up Riverside Drive to Grant's Tomb—which is quite a hike. The Chicagoans, of course, want it to go down Michigan Boulevard. And the Podunkers, of course, want it to start from the Eagle House and go down Main Street as far, at least, as Mason's Block.

While we are rather inclined to take the side of Podunk (which is a general term) against its bigger sisters, we have just a bit of a suggestion, which we put out here just to see how it takes. There are a lot of fine old gentlemen in the United States who will remember all their days the review of another great Army held in the national capital more than 50 years ago. The name of that Army was—or, rather, is—the Grand Army of the Republic.

Over the same route there marched in July, 1917, a lot of fine old gentlemen who wore the Gray—and proud they were to march there. For that reason there can be nothing sectional in the idea that, after all, perhaps the most appropriate place for the A.E.F. to receive the plaudits of its grateful fellow-countrymen would be along the sweep of Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

THE NAVY

"The Navy in European waters has at all times most cordially aided the Army, and it is most gratifying to report that there has never before been such perfect co-operation between these two branches of the service." Thus writes the Commander-in-Chief of the A.E.F. in his report to the Secretary of War.

"During the last twelve months we have learned to know each other very well. We have learned to respect each other. I want you to take back a message to the Atlantic Fleet that you have left, a very warm place in the hearts of the Grand Fleet, and I hope that you will not forget your comrades of the mist and your pleasant associations of the North Sea." Thus spoke Admiral Beatty of the British Navy to the Yankee tars of the Sixth Battle Squadron.

We who are here by grace of the protection afforded us by our Navy know that it made good, that it was everlastingly on the job. We are proud to belong to an Army that boasts such a backer and helper as our Navy has proved to be. Now that we have before us the prospect of going home, our thoughts turn again to the Navy and its transport service. Though the Navy, by the mutiny and surrender of the German fleet, was denied its longed for chance of battle, it made its weight felt mightily in the great struggle and hastened for all of us the day of our return. We, one and all of us, tender it our thanks and praise.

THE SPORTING PAGE

After being absent with leave for 21 issues, the Sporting Page comes back this week. It will have to make a modest re-beginning, like a man from replacement, and its destiny depends largely upon the co-operation it receives.

There was considerable comment when THE STARS AND STRIPES expelled the Sporting Page last July. There was more in the States (possibly because there was more time for it there) than there was here. The comment in the A.E.F. was divided, but divided unevenly. Indorsements of the decision were far more numerous than complaints. Along in August, when the A.E.F. got up to its ears in the engrossing game of war, there was nothing apropos of sports but silence, deep and profound, which confirmed the justice of the decision.

This paper's opinion of sports is the same as ever. Proper recreation, exercise and amusement are prime necessities. The fighting over, sports in the A.E.F. are of high importance.

There is just one thing more. This paper's opinion of the leading figures of the world of sports is unchanged. On July 26 it was stated of sports:

"Its leading stars are either in the iron harness of war—or forgotten."

Some of the professionals—most of them—have been in the iron harness. Of them we can say nothing, except that they are of us and that we are for them.

Of the others it can be said that, so far as this paper is concerned, they will continue to be forgotten—and unnamed.

CORPORALS—CENTER!

Once again the cry of "Squads right! Rrrrrrrrrch!" is heard in the land. It is what we might refer to sardonically as a familiar cry. Quite a few of us have heard it, off and on, even though these past few months have kept us so busy in trenches, well-built or hastily dug, in offices, in the hundred places where the voice of duty bade us linger, that the cry has lost something of its proximity. It had become ancient history, and lo! it is modern again.

This intensive drilling business, of which there will apparently be rather more than less in the days immediately ahead of us, brings a familiar figure into view. Look at him closely. What mean those two chevrons on his right arm? Can it be our old friend the corporal?

It is none other. There he is, in all his pristine glory, looking over his shoulder at Number Three in the rear rank, who never would keep step, and employing the old familiar dodges to impress upon that same Number Three the fact that he is still, despite his obvious incapacity therefor, a microcosm in the military machine.

Were there corporals in Shakespeare's day? Of whom else, then, was he speaking when he said that all the world was a stage, and that among the roles came that of

the soldier,
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even at the cannon's mouth.

We don't know about the beard. And, now that the war is over, we don't know about that cannon's mouth stuff. But what of the platoon sergeant's mouth?

THE DIGGERS

As is perfectly fair and proper, the plan now is that the Australians are to be among the first of the British forces to be sent back to their home on the other side of the world.

Most of them have been out since 1914, going through the hell of the Dardanelles and later being transported to France, where they have earned the right, if ever soldiers did, to wear that natty bonnet of theirs at such a cocky angle.

Without exception, the Aussies all hope to be sent home "by the other way, so that we can see America." We hope they will be sent home that way if they want to. Besides wishing to have them see America—which we are pardonably proud of—we should like to have America see them.

The Army's Poets

BALLADE OF THE WEST WIND

Over the vineyards that cover France,
Brown in the cold December days;
Eddying, making the dead leaves dance;
Parting the curtains of misty haze;
Rocking the boughs in the forest ways;
Bringing a tang of the salty foam;
Steadily, softly, a zephyr plays—
And the West Wind blows from Home.

Over the wastes where the war lord's lance
Splintered and broke in furious frays;
Over the ruins of Prussia's chance,
Scene of an Empire's hopeless craze,
The hate-made desert where Freedom's rays
Shine on the shell-churned chalk and loam;
Sensing the breezes, a soldier prays
And the West Wind blows—from Home.

Aiding a Riviera trance,
Warm in the azue southern bays;
Lashing Atlantic shores, its glance
Rolling the fog from the soaking clays;
Touching the Rhine, though its chill dismays
The saddened burgher, far may it roam;
An Army is minded of whence it strays
And the West Wind blows—from Home.

L'ENVOI

Prince, it is little that serves to enhance
Visions of hearthstones in Key West or Nome;
Why does a campfire quicken and prance
When the West Wind blows from Home?

JACK BARROWS, F.A.

THE ADVENT

(Inspired by the trial flight of the first Liberty plane to be flown in France, May 17, 1918.)

"Coupe!"
The pilot, peeping from his cock-pit,
Grimaces, and tries again.
"Contact!"
Three mechanicians tug, chain-like, at the huge propeller;
The engine roars, insane.
The ship moves forward, her nose lifts gracefully into the air;
And as the swaying, expectant crowd
Cheers, and cheers again, the Chaplain Bowed,
Murmurs a prayer.

B. C. CLARKE, Corp., 466th Aero Squadron.

SOMEWHERE FROST IS ON THE PUMPKIN

"When the frost is on the pumpkin" doesn't often come to mind
In this land of early harvests where a corn shock's hard to find;
But the crispness and the tingle of the frosty, snappy days
'Minds us serious, hard-boiled Yankees of our boyhood autumn days.

Starts us thinkin' of persimmons 'nd of winter apple trees,
'Nd of slippin' through th' clearin' when the ground begins t' freeze
After squirrels—maybe rabbits—dog-a-stickin' at our heels—
Nippy, crisp old autumn weather—how outlandish good it feels!

Somehow folks get close together 'nd a feller's life means more
When we have to rustle firewood 'nd to shut the outside door;
When we hate to get up mornin's an' around the fire we flock—
Somewhere frost is on th' pumpkin 'nd the fodder's in the shock.

MELVIN RYDER.

HOMESICKNESS

Gotta be a soldier. Gotta stick t' biz—
Gotta keep on marchin' while the marchin' is;
Gotta keep salutin';
Gotta keep in trim;
Bugle keeps on tootin',
Home looks mighty dim.
Gotta keep on stitchin',
Gotta foller like a lamb—
But, boy, my feet am itchin'
For th' feel of Alabam'.
Gotta answer reveille. Gotta stand retreat;
Gotta be K.P. sometimes—soldiers has t' eat;
Gotta keep a-workin'
Jes' like there was war;
Ain't no time for shirkin'
Lots o' jobs in store;
Ain't no time for switchin'
Er lettin' things go slam—
But, boy, my feet am itchin'
For the feel of Alabam'.
Mammy writes she's "waitin' with a possum pie,"
My doggone mouth keeps waterin' till by throat is dry.
"Watermelon's handy—
Sugar cake am hot—
Enclosin' love from Mandy—
An' yet a feller's got
T' sweat here in a kitchen—
It's all fer Uncle Sam,
But, boy, my feet's sure itchin'
For the feel of Alabam'.
Sometimes, my lips get twitchin'—
Baby, that I am—
But, boy, my feet's done itchin'
For the feel of Alabam'.

E. RUTHERFORD, Jr., Corp., Tours.

FRIENDSHIP

At last the war is ended
And we're off for the U.S.A.
For o'er the silent battlefields
The reign of Peace holds sway.
We think of all the months have brought,
Their trials and their joys,
And of the many friendships wrought
Among the soldier boys.
Seems e'er we met, 'twas parting time,
But parting ne'er can sever.
True friendship ties in any clime
Remain the same forever.
Our hearts beat high as we return
To the land for which they fought.
Those heroes tried, who bled and died,
Nor for themselves cared aught.
Yes, we return to our native land,
To sweetheart, wife and mother;
For the world has come to understand
What it means to be a brother.
And the banner fair that's waving there,
With honor to those behind us,
Like a voice from the skies speaks of sacrifice
For Freedom and Truth. 'Twill remind us
Through life's glad morn, and sunset's glow,
When skies are bright or clouds hang low;
"Not what we gain, but what we give
Measures the worth of the lives we live."
Then let's be off to our native land
The country of God and mother,
For the world has come to understand
What it means to be a brother.

RAY V. SOWERS, Sgt., U.S.M.C.

ALBERT IN THE ARGONNE, OR, OVER THE TOP WITH A BOOK-CASE

(Delivered with pathos upon presentation to Sgt. Albert Dietrich, 18th Personnel Section, of a tin medal in recognition of his great services in the recent Argonne offensive, when he went over the top with a book-case on his back, service records and field desk in one hand and a bottle of ink and a pen in the other.)

Listen, my friends, and I will tell
How Albert Dietrich went through hell.
'Twas up in the Argonne, where we put on our drive
That Albert went through hell and came out alive.

It was early on the morn of September two-six
That we started out the Germans to fix,
Some had Eddystones and some a Chauchay,—
But Albert, he carried a book-case that day.
The cry of the boys was "On to Berlin!"
Still some were in doubt about Albert getting in.
Jack Davis, he said, "It's Berlin or Bust,"
And Dietrich's book-case fell in the dust.
'Tis said that the shrapnel then filled the air;
We were calling for help from the boys back there.
Albert shouted, "I'm doing all that I can—
My little son Otto says I'm a brave man."
We battled the Hun for the next five days
Going over the top wave after wave—
Choppy, Very and Charpentry fell—
And then we came back our story to tell.
Many asked Albert just what he did,
He was smeared with mud and had lost his tin lid.
Then Albert told of his part in the fight,
How he carried his book-case and records day and night.
The question is asked in the Personnel
"What would have happened if Albert had fell?
Would the Germans have whipped us and pushed us back
If Albert hadn't been there with his book-case on his back?"

REBUILDING MATERIAL

SO THIS IS RUSSIA!

To the Editor of THE STARS AND STRIPES:

Sometimes, about once or twice every now and then, copies of THE STARS AND STRIPES find their way up here to No Woman's Land and are instantly devoured by the news-hungry gang, searching for information regarding their comrades and general conditions in France, where we belong, but through Fate were sent up to this part of the world to quell Bolshevism and guard the Northern Lights.

We are so far north that the doggone sun works only when it feels inclined to do so, and in that way it is like everything else in Russia. The moon isn't so particular, and comes up, usually backwards, at any time of the day or night, in any part of the sky, it having no set schedule, and often it will get lost and still be on the job at noon. Yes, we are so far north that 30 degrees below will soon be tropical weather to us, and they will have to build fires around both cows before they can milk them. Probably about next month at this time some-one will come around and say we will be pulling out of here in a day or so, but then, the days will be six months long.

In one issue of your very popular paper we noticed a cartoon, "Pity the Boys in Siberia," but what about us, Ed? Now, up here in this tough town there are 269,831 inhabitants, of which 61,329 are human beings and 208,502 are dogs. Dogs of every description, from the poodle to the St. Bernard and from the wolfhound to the halfbreed dachshund, which is half German and half Bolshevik and looks the part.

The wind whistles across the Dvina river like the Twentieth Century Limited passing Podunk, and snowflakes are as numerous as retreating Germans were in France a few weeks ago. We have good quarters, when we are here, thank Fortune for that, and good food, when it comes up. If we can stand the winter we will be all jake, for a Yank can accustom himself to anything if he wants to. But just the same, we would like to see your artists busy on "The Boys in Northern Russia"—and tell them not to leave out the word "Northern."

We also read in THE STARS AND STRIPES that the boys in Italy had some tongue twisters and brain worriers, but listen to this. Centimes and sous and francs may be hard to count, but did you ever hear of a rouble or a kopec? A kopec is worth a tenth of a cent and there are a hundred of them in a rouble. As you will see, that makes a rouble worth a dime, and to make matters worse all the money is paper, coins having gone out of circulation since the beginning of the mix-up. A kopec is the size of a postage stamp, a rouble looks like a United Cigar Store Certificate, a 25 rouble note resembles a porous plaster and a 100 rouble the Declaration of Independence.

When a soldier in search of a meal enters a restaurant, he says to the waitress, "Barishna, zakajreetych bifstek, pozhalysta," which means, "An order of beefsteak, lady, please." You see, you always say "barishna," which really means "girl," and until a young lady is married she is always a "barishna" and is always addressed in that manner. She will answer the hungry customer with "Yah ochen sojalaylu, shto unaus nyet yestnik prepasov syechas" (a simple home cure for lockajaw), meaning, "I am very sorry, but we are right out of food today." He will try several other places, and if he is lucky he is apt to stumble across a place where he can get something to eat, but when he looks at the bill of fare and learns that it will cost him about $7.50 for a sandwich and a cup of coffee, he beats it back to the barracks.

Every time you get on a street car ("dramvay") you have to count out 60 kopecs for your fare, and most of us would rather walk than be jammed in the two-by-four buses and fish for the money. Before boarding a car each passenger usually hunts up a couple of five gallon milk cans, a market basket or two, and a bag of smoked herring, so they will get their kopecs' worth out of the ride, besides making the atmosphere nice and pleasant for the rest of the passengers. If you should see a soldier walking down the street with his nose turned up and his mouth puckered in apparent contempt you would be wrong in thinking he was conceited, for if the truth be known he has probably just got his shirt back from the wash-woman, and she has used fish-oil instead of soap, and he is trying to escape the fumes.

When you take your clothes to have them laundered and tell the woman to please omit the odor, she'll tell you that she has no soap and if you want them washed to your satisfaction, please send in a cake. Anything in the world to keep your clothes from smelling of fish-oil, so you double time back and get her the soap, and then she gives the kids a bath, and that's the end of your soap.

When a Russian meets another man he knows on the street, both lift their hats and flirt with each other. If they stop to talk, they always shake hands, even if they haven't seen each other for fully 20 minutes. Then they simply must shake hands again when they leave. When a man meets a lady friend he usually kisses her hand and shows her how far he can bend over without breaking his suspenders. "Ah," he will say, "yah ochen rrad vasveedyet, kak vwi pazhavaetye?" which in United States means, "How do you do?" to which she will reply, "Blogadaru vas, yah ochen korosho," or "Very well, thank you." It is the knockout. A fellow has to shake hands so much that some of them are getting the habit around the company.

And another thing, Ed, are they really holding a separate war up here for our benefit? Just because we weren't in on the big doings in France is no reason why they should run a post season series especially for us. We appreciate the kindness and honor and all that, but what we want to know is where everybody gets that stuff. Believe me, after all the dope we got on the trenches, about pianos and wooden floors, steam heat and other conveniences, when we see ourselves on outpost duty with one blanket and a poncho, sleeping (not on duty, of course) in 28 inches of pure ooooozy mud, which before we awaken turns into thin, fine ice, it makes us want to cry out and ask the universe what we have done to deserve this exile.

Now don't think, dear old Ed, that we are kicking—American soldiers never do. We just wanted to have something to write you about, to remind you that we ARE a part of the American E.F., although "isolated."

With best wishes to your paper and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the boys, I'll close with the consoling assurance in my heart that we'll meet you back on Broadway, anyway.

C. B. KNIGHT,
Corp., Hq., 339th Inf., American E.F.
Archangel, Russia.

CHRISTMAS, 1917—LOOKING BACKWARD

They were five soldiers, and they were seated about a table—a round table—in an attractive little restaurant in an equally attractive little French city. It was Christmas Day, 1918. Good things had been set before them, including turkey with real stuffing, and there was a prospect, along toward the dim and distant end of the meal, of coffee with real sugar in it.

The first of the five sighed pleasurably and let his eyes linger on the white tablecloth.

"A year ago today," he said, "things weren't exactly like this. And yet it was one of the most pleasant Christmases I ever had. I had been in Tours for five weeks—my first five weeks in France—where it had been so mild that we used to go around the barracks grounds without our blouses. Then, two days before Christmas, they sent us up to a high hill near Chaumont. It was like changing from Florida to Minnesota. For Haute-Marne was a single sheet of snow; the air was beautifully crisp and cold, and it made you want to go out of doors and stand up straight and fill your lungs with it.

"The first day up there I was picked for K.P. When I went into the kitchen, the cook, a real old-timer, told me that K.P. tricks up thataway lasted a week. So I resigned myself to seven days of it—including Christmas.

"I didn't like the prospect at first. But when, on Christmas Eve, I saw the cook laying out I don't know how many apple pies, with real apples in them, and heard him say that he had been making tarts for soldiers for the last five Christmas Eves, I began to grow more enthusiastic.

"Christmas came, and I was still K.P. At noon the boys began to flock in—we were only about a hundred—and sat down to turkey, and I've forgotten how many kinds of vegetables, and apple pie—a piece to a man. Before they began a young aviator offered prayer. I guess he wasn't used to praying, for his prayer was a familiar, offhand kind of thing, but it was so genuinely sincere that if ever a prayer was listened to, that prayer was.

"That was my Christmas. Oh, yes, and I forgot to tell you that, being K.P., I knocked down four pieces of that apple pie—the best I ever tasted."

"A year ago today," said the second man, "I was aboard the good ship Tuscania, lying in the harbor at Liverpool. For a Christmas gift, I found in my sock a piece of hard, dry bread that a rat had feasted upon, a bone—no meat on it—from the leg of a chicken, and an empty can of sardines. For Christmas dinner I had a piece of corned willie for turkey, and for cranberries I had tripe.

"And then, for entertainment, a second lieutenant came along and bawled me out for not having cleaned up the mess by my bunk that I had made two nights before when one of those sickly little waves got funny with the ship and skidded up a couple of miles out of our course.

"Now that was a year ago, mind you, and many things have happened since then. The Tuscania, as you know, went down. But the second lieutenant who bawled me out went up. He's a major now."

"A year ago today," said the third man, "I thought I was the luckiest guy in the world, because three of my Christmas packages—we got man size ones in those days, you know—came on Christmas Eve, and when I got up for a delightfully late 7:30 reveille—postponed an hour in honor of the day—there they all were, smokes and eats and socks and all the things I had been hankering for ever since my arrival in France two months back. Right there I decided to pass up Cook Louie's breakfast, and beat it back to the billet with the rest of the squad just as soon as we were dismissed, there to dejeuner on cocoanut cakes and all the other well known indigestibles. It was some breakfast.

"All this happened in the little town of Mont-le-Neufchateau, in the department of Vosges, just above the well-known Yank town of Neufchateau. Some of the gang went down there in the afternoon, after Christmas dinner in the mess shack, but I didn't. Reason? I was confined to the limits of Montey for having gone AWOL up to Nancy with a bunch of Y.M.C.A. men.

"Well, like every other outfit that was well quartered, we had a tree up in the square, and presents for all the French youngsters, and those of us who were godly went to mass in the little cold stone church and tried to keep warm by helping the wavering choir out on its 'Venite, adoremus.' And after that the battalion had a great get-together party, in the course of which the major—he's a lieutenant-colonel now and a D.S.C.—read a speech in French, to which the mayor, who was my landlord, responded in much better French. In the course of the proceedings I made a speech, too, in which I took a slam at the major (he had confined me personally)."

"A year ago today," said the fourth man, "I was in a training camp at Langres with the snow a foot from the ground and the mercury trying to get out through the bottom of the thermometer to meet it. The features of the previous three or four weeks had been squads right, cold, candlelight, beans, slum and sore feet in generous overdoses. The afternoon before, until 8 o'clock at night, we had chased an imaginary enemy several kilometers across plowed fields and through woods, with the snow dropping from the trees down our backs—and melting.

"I answered reveille at 6 a.m. and went back to bed because the stove wouldn't burn. The Q.M. fell down and for Christmas dinner we had beans, for which there wasn't room after we had swallowed our indignation.

"In the afternoon a friend and I decided we ought to mitigate the bean atrocity with champagne. We went into town and found the places where champagne might be bought greatly outnumbered by M.P.'s, but we finally got a bottle with the understanding that we couldn't drink it on the premises.

"For two hours we hunted for a place to down it comfortably, eventually consuming it standing in the snow behind the Army Staff College, drinking out of one mess cup by turns. After eating deux oeufs—omelette—et pommes frites—oui, oui—oui, oui—I went back to the barracks. The stove was as cold and the room as dismal as the rest of the day had been. The whole room—20 men—went to bed at 8 o'clock to keep warm."

The fifth man was silent.

"Well," they said, turning to him, "how about you?"

"I haven't anything to tell," said the fifth man. "Nothing extraordinary happened in my young life last Christmas. But if you must know——

"A year ago today," said the fifth man, "I was home."

FLOOD OF SALVAGE HITS A.E.F. DEPOTS AS FIGHTING ENDS

Junk of Battlefield Being Turned into Dollars for Uncle Sam

BOOTS RENOVATED, 59 CTS.

Personnel at Tours Plant Is 6,166, Including 4,404 Women and 981 Enlisted Men

Down at Tours they didn't expect the regular after-armistice déluge of salvage until long after the first of the year. But Yanks seem to be as good as policing up as they are at fighting, and that is why the American Salvage Depot is one of the busiest spots in the A.E.F. right now.

Every man and woman is working at top speed, every machine at full blast, and it is estimated that it will be months before the plant has transformed all the old junk of the battlefields into dollars and cents on the right side of Uncle Sam's ledger.

The following figures indicate the pronounced growth of the salvage output within the past few months, not only at Tours, but all over the S.O.S.:

In August the total value of salvage materials amounted to $3,000,000, while in October there was restored to service more than $8,000,000 worth of clothing, shoes, rubber goods, canvas, webbing materials and metals. In addition to this, there was salvaged from the battlefields and put back immediately into use or sent to depots for reissue $4,000,000 worth of property. The item of ammunition alone involved $4,000,000, which makes a grand total for October of more than $16,000,000—over half a million dollars daily.

The grand A.E.F. total for November, when completed, ought to exceed October's by a good round margin, for the signatures on the armistice were scarcely dry before the salvage crews up the line blew the lid clear off and flooded the salvage depots to such a degree that an embargo on cars had to be ordered.

November Figures for Tours

The November figures for Tours are in and are even more remarkable: Clothing amounted to $10,933,298.01; metalware, $586,016.55; canvas and webbing, $1,551,134.46; leather and harness, $1,246,420.34; shoes, $3,866,259; and rubber goods (boots arctics, raincoats, etc.), $1,200,225.22.

Improved methods and new equipment, much of it devised on the spot, are no longer novelties at Tours. Take the rubber goods department, for instance. There was the day back home, not so very long ago, when a boot that was worn through the heel, sole, or had an L tear in it was reckoned as scrap.

The rubber goods department at Tours started out to salvage these boots by means of cold cement; but cold cement is unsatisfactory, especially when the fabric in the sole is gone. So it was decided to try vulcanization on a broad scale. A Paris chemist was consulted to save time, for the compound was known, and experiments brought forth the formula desired. And now, when the boots come out of the plant, with the fabric rebuilt and with brand-new rubber heels and soles, they are just as good as the day they came out of the factory new.

There is also in the boot department an ingenious drying device. At first the boots were dried by being suspended upside down over a fire, but this was unsatisfactory, because it drove the moisture further into the lining rather than drying it up. A hollow peg was devised with a form at the top over which the boot was fitted. Hot air then was forced up through the peg, forming a circulation and thoroughly drying the inside.

It has been estimated that it only costs 59 cents now to renovate a pair of boots.

Better Than New Article

Shelter halves also get thorough treatment, and so do raincoats, while it is the proud boast of this department that when a Lyster bag goes out of the salvage depot it is in much better shape, in many cases, than when it entered the Government service. Its holes and tears are basted and pasted and cemented and otherwise solidly sealed, and it is then given a generous quantity of cement lining to make it thoroughly waterproof.

The clothing department is another part of the salvage depot at Tours which is increasing steadily in production, and there is a chart hanging on the walls of the office which shows that this increased production is actually being attained with a smaller percentage of personnel than was on hand last summer.

How is it done? Partly by arranging the tables so that the articles will not have to be handled so frequently; partly by the introduction of the piece-work system; partly by putting the women into uniforms; partly by increasing the number of overseers; partly by putting the steadiest and most intelligent operators on the power machines; and partly by lowering the tables at which the women sat. This not only obviated constant reaching, but enabled the forewomen to ascertain just how much work was being carried out.

More Work in Afternoon

Incidentally, an hourly record is kept on the number of garments turned out, and this shows that more work is done in the afternoon than in the morning. The record was set late in November, when the women repaired, sized, classified and packed 2,370 pieces between 3 and 4 p. m.

Right now the canvas and webbing department is swamped. Every soldier is provided with a haversack, a cartridge belt and a canteen cover, so that there are unlimited numbers of these, not to mention leggins, medical packs and belts.

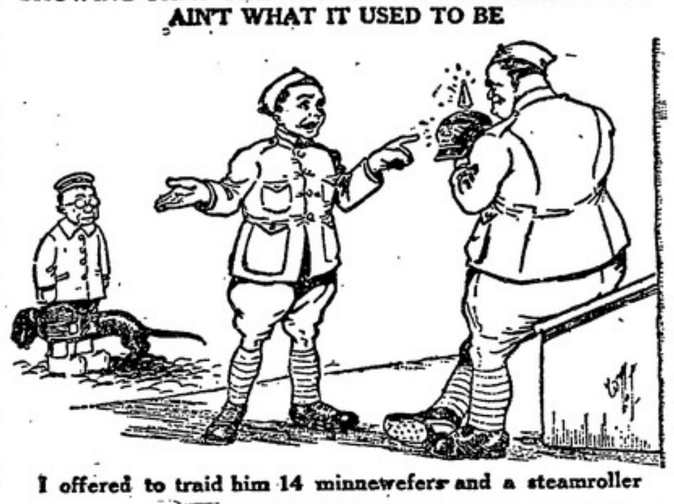
In this department it is especially noticeable that salvaged articles go through several cycles of renovation. They go out, stay a few months, and then back they come—and out they go.

Rags from clothing, scraps of old shoes and leather dust from the shoe department, scraps of rubber and rubber coat material, pieces of leather from the harness branch, and pieces of canvas from the canvas branch are sold in large lots to the highest bidder. The woolen clothing rags are shredded and the product used over again for making cloth. Cotton rags which are too poor for other uses are torn and used in paper making.

The Tours salvage depot in November had a personnel of 26 officers, 981 enlisted men, 757 male civilians and 4,404 female civilians, a total of 6,166.

HENRY'S PAL TO HENRY

SHOWING THAT THE HELMET MARKET THESE DAYS AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE



I offered to traid him 14 minnewefers and a steamroller

Germany, Dec. 21, 1918.

Begates Heindrick. Well Henry I guess you ain't missing much bekause your outfit didn't get no chanse to come along into Germany. That time we marched them 31 kilometers in 14 hours ain't got nothing on this trip.

That's all we do Henry is hike and be balled out by sekund loots etc. for not having our coat buttoned or something. Only we get to stop in a German town onse in a while like tonite and give the Proosians the onse over. We are in now what the Boches call Trier and what is on the map Treves.

Well Henry Buck and me slipped off tonite after retreat and went up town. But we didn't have much fun bekause we are both destitoot. We spent all the pfennings we had for a shave and Buck nearly got his throat cut by the barber.

Buck had a big hand grenade in his pocket so if somebody started something he could defend us and while the barber was shaving him Bucks hand grenade dropped out of his hip pocket on the floor and the barber kind of flintched when he seen it and cut a awful nick in Bucks windpipe. But of kourse he didn't mean to do it.

Well Henry I guess the people here kind of think a lot of us all rite all though they don't show it much. They are awful after American souvenirs.

This p.m. after we got shaved me and Buck was standing on the sidewalk up town and Buck pulls out his handkerchief to blow his nose with and he dropped something else out of his pocket which was only a little piece of soap and there was about a dozen people tried to get ahold of it all at onse.

Speaking of souvenirs Henry there is a German soldier here who has got a Proosion generals spiked hellmet which hewants to sell for only 20 marks which is zwanzig mark when you kind of inhale it like a German. It is sure cheap. I all ready got some other spiked hellmets which I got back at the next town for only 2 marks but I am going to have this generals hellmet if I have to kill the co. klerk.

Well Henry so long for this time and maybe I will write tomorrow if I get the hellmet. But I guess they ain't much chanse of that when you are destitoot.

So long.
S. T. B.

Germany, Dec. 22, 1918.

Dear Henry. Well I ain't got the hellmet yet but I am going to pritty soon if the mess sergeant keeps his promise to loan me the 20 marks like he said he would.

Of kourse sinse the pay master got bumped off that time like everybody says he did there ain't much chanse of me paying him back verry soon but that ain't worrying me none Henry if I can just get this hellmet before some other gink does.

It is just like the one the kiser hisself wears and is just as good to I bet. The bird who owns it was around to see me again this a.m. I hope we don't leave for Coblenz tomorrow like we are supposed to do unless I get this hellmet. I will have it tomorrow maybe Henry.

From your pal,
S. T. B.

Germany, Dec. 23, 1918.

Friend Henry. Well Henry we ain't going till tomorrow but I guess I won't have that hellmet. This a.m. I hit up the mess sergt. for the 20 and he gave it to me and I got off after mess and went down to the barraks where this German is at and before I get there I met the mess sergt. hisself coming up the street with this fancy hellmet in his hand and I was pritty feshay about it bekause I had been planning on it rite along.

Well Henry he didn't buy it atall. He traded for it to this German for only one little cake of soap with which I used to wash the pans with this a.m. when I was on K.P. Can you beat that Henry.

I guess it wasn't bekause them people wanted Bucks soap he dropped for a souvenir but bekause like the mess sergt. told me there ain't no soap in Germany bekause they had to use it all with which to make shells with or something.

If I had of knowed that Henry I would of had enough soap stored up to buy a store with or something etc. bekause if one piece of soap like that is worth 20 marks a hole case would be worth a lot.

Well I offered to traid him 14 minnewefer and a steam roller which I traded a Boche out of with only a kan of tobaco and which he could use all rite to haul his stove around with etc. but he wouldn't do it and went off laughing like he was sik.

The steam roller is setting out by our co. hqrs. and if he wants to use it for anything he will never get it.

Well Henry I am going over and see how much soap I can find and I will write to you later.

Your pal,
S. T. B.

Germany, Dec. 23, 1918.

Pal Henry. Well Henry I guess I am going to be in bad with a sertain sekund loot that has just come to our co. if he finds out what went with his soap.

This morning I went over to the kitchen to see if I could rustle a couple of bars of soap and I met the old Top hisself comeing out of the kitchen with some soap which was all there was. And he said if I said anything he would tend to me. Of kourse Henry you know what that means all rite. I know he would all rite bekause he has done it before. So of kourse I ain't going to say anything.

But the Top is a pritty good skout at that bekause he says for me to kind of snoop around the new loots billet and see if he had any soap. Well Henry I sneaked around all rite and I found a hole carton of fancy soap which had 12 bars in it and smelit like that it had some kind of perfume in it.

Well I put it under my coat and was coming out of the billet when I seen the sekund loot hisself comeing and I slooted him and started to go by and he says Hey Buddy what you got there. Well Henry I was about to faint when I said Cigarettes. Well he said That's just what I am looking for. May I buy a package of you.

Well Henry I was in a hell of a fix wasn't I bekause I didn't dare refuse him and if I opened it and showed him he would of reckonised it. And if he did Henry I guess maybe my little brothers grand child would have to finish serving the Sentence out.

Well Henry I said that they belonged to the Top and that he would have to see him. So he went on without saying anything more.

After I hooked it Henry I wasn't going to back out at nothing so I went down town and traded the 10 pieces of for a neklase for Maggie and in another place I traded 2 for a meersham pipe and a lot of other things inkluding another generals hellmet which is better than the mess sergts.

Well Henry we are pulling out in the morning.

So long.
S. T. B.

P.S. The sekund loot just called me to 1 side and wanted to know would I go down town and rustle him a lock for his door. He give me 20 marks and said I will leave it to you Brown bekause you can judge pritty well what kind of a one I need. Then he kind of smiled and beat it. I guess I got away with his soap pritty slik didn't I Henry sinse he ain't wise to it.

HOMESICKNESS IS NOT RHEUMATISM

So Don't Try to Make the Army Doctor Believe It Is

Flat feet that weathered months and months of war with the A.E.F. suddenly became an acute infirmity when the armistice was signed. Soldiers who had been suffering from wartime colds developed unbearable pains in the chest shortly after firing ceased along the front. Rheumatic pains began to twinge the joints of buck privates about the same time, but medical officers handling sick call usually found that the rheumatism, flat feet or suspected tuberculosis had complications of homesickness or "pressing business responsibilities back in the States."

Baffling Spells of Dizziness

Sympathetic but professionally skeptical medical officers confronted by daily-increasing parades of the near-halt have been overworking stethescopes in running down symptoms. Elusive pains and baffling spells of dizziness have been put under the "third degree" by conscientious examiners, who have been listening to a series of recitals of symptoms that would bring joy to the man who writes the testimonials for the "advertising medical profession" back in the States.

"The hard part about it all is that we want to be strictly fair to every man," said one medical officer in a headquarters town. "The percentage of men who are really trying to work us perhaps is small, but in many cases we find that these men have been in France relatively a short time. We think that to allow them to return to the States on a comparatively trivial ailment is unfair to the great majority of men who have been in France for long periods and are still carrying on uncomplainingly. It's the same principle of a man shoving his way into the head of a mess line instead of waiting his turn."

TO BALANCE SERVICE TERMS

A bulletin issued by the Transportation Department, Hq., S.O.S., states that officers of this department, among whom are many of the most prominent railroad executives in the United States, will be relieved from duty in France under a policy that will balance the length of service in France, the character of the service and the relative importance of the officer's war duties and the need for his services in civil life.

THE HOT SPRINGS OF ARKANSAS EXTENDS ITS GREETINGS TO THE A.E.F.

AMERICA'S GREATEST HEALTH RESORT THE YEAR AROUND

The Army and Navy Hospital of the U.S. Government Located There Owned and Controlled by the United States Government.

Hot Springs with its curative waters is always open to you with its wonderful hotels and mountain drives and delightful climate.

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For the American Expeditionary Forces
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HOLEPROOFS, at twice the price, would be economy, because they cutwear average hosiery 2 to 1.
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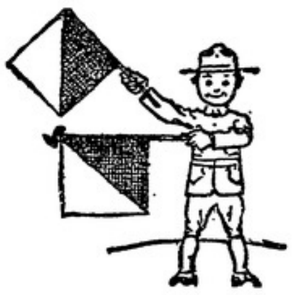

-We like to spell it out same as President Wilson does

O-K-E-H

Only it won't be entirely oken until your boys get home.

Meantime, a Happy New Year!

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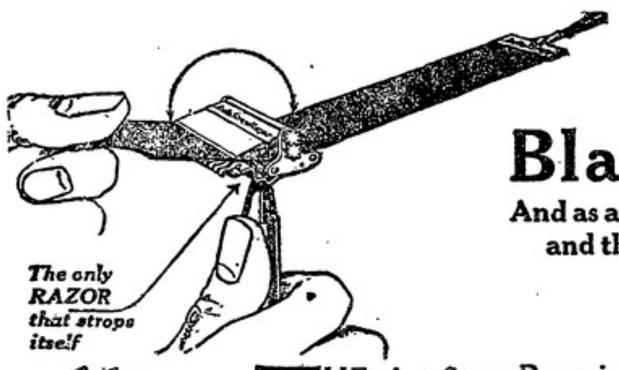
Blade Economy
And as a consequence Steel Conservation—and the highest quality of steel at that



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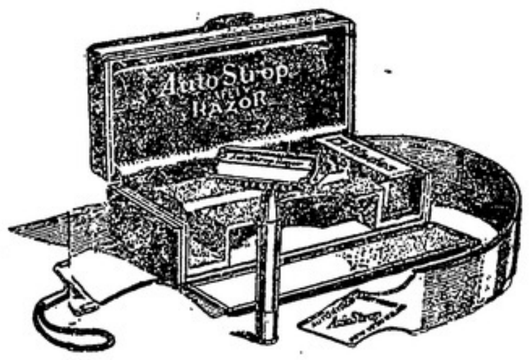

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345 Fifth Avenue, New York
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On sale all over the world

And when the horsehides spring again
From out their war-time hiding nooks,
Will baseball mean the same to men—
Will umpires still be labeled crooks?

$1,050,000 STARTER FOR ARMY SPORTS

Will each fan gladly pay two bits?
Will homers bring the olden thrill?
Will we enjoy the boots and hits?
Will we? You bet we will!

WHO IS THE BEST ATHLETE IN THE AMERICAN ARMY?

Uncle Sam Wants to Know So Adopts Big Sport Program

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS ON

Baseball, Football, Basketball, Tennis, Track and Field Games Under A.A.U. Rules

Who is the best all-around athlete in the American Expeditionary Forces in France? Who is the best sprinter, the best shot putter and the best jumper? These are only a few of the questions that are agitating Uncle Sam just now, and he is going to settle them tout de suite. In order to accomplish this result, one of the most pretentious and far-reaching athletic programs ever devised has been adopted for the United States Army.

The new sport program is the result of the joint co-operation of officials at G.H.Q. and of the Y.M.C.A. Col. W. F. Johnson of G.H.Q is the officer who has been designated to supervise all sports in the A.E.F.

Briefly it can be divided into two separate parts, A.E.F. championship contests and mass athletics. Under the first heading will come company, battalion, regimental, brigade, divisional, corps and army championship contests, conducted under uniform regulations to be issued shortly by G.H.Q. A suitable trophy emblematic of this championship will be awarded the successful unit as well as individual prizes to those who represent that unit.

Championship Events

The championship events will include baseball, football, basket ball, boxing wrestling, tennis and track and field sports. The track and field sports include the 100, 220 and 440 yard dashes; 120 and 220 yard hurdles; 880 and one mile runs; 880 yard and one mile relays; broad and high jumps, shot put, discus throw, javelin throw, pole vault modified Marathon and a Pentathlon These contests will all be conducted under A.A.U. rules.

Only a glance at the list of events shows that every soldier in the A.E.F is going to be interested. When the championship football, baseball, basket ball, wrestling, boxing, track and field teams of the three Yank Armies have been determined, there will be a gigantic athletic meet and they will contest with one another to determine the championship of the A.E.F.

What Mass Games Are

Now for the mass games. These have been chosen especially to develop speed, muscle and endurance and provoke good laughs for spectators and contestants alike. They have a wide range so that if a man can crawl or walk he can take part and must take part or his platoon loses in points by his absence. They have been arranged for platoon play, in order to determine which platoon in a company excels. Many of the games are new but a Y.M.C.A. athletic instructor and assistants will be attached to each division for the purpose of supervising and instructing the play.

Some of the games are broad jump relay, chariot relay, volley ball, shot put relay, pig-a-back relay, basket ball relay, Indian wrestling, straddle ball relay, hop-step-jump, indoor baseball, hopping relay, rooster fight, dog fight, first aid relay, tug of war, straddle pole relay basket ball, potato race relay, pull ups, obstacle race, wand wrestling, backward forward relay, wounded man relay, cage ball, three jumps relay, roll over relay, and medicine ball throw.

Supplies on the Way

While the Y.M.C.A. will be unable to furnish athletic suits for the whole A.E.F., it will furnish the supplies, an order having been placed several months ago for $1,050,000 worth of athletic material.

Under the system of scoring for mass games, Private Smith of the First platoon of a company may prove the best man in an event and yet see his platoon lose, as the individual score of each member of the platoon is totaled and the platoon getting the most points wins. For this reason platoon managers should see that every member of their unit takes part. No matter how punk he may be at any game, his participation will count for something.

FIRST HORSE SHOW IS GREAT SUCCESS

Rolling Kitchens, Water Wagons and Ration Carts Pass Before Judges

It remained for the Supply Company, 53rd Pioneer Infantry, at Rarecourt, to stage the first Horse Show ever held in the A.E.F. The novelty of the contest was enough to attract the interest of every Yank who had a horse for miles around, and as a result, for days in advance, there was a great bustle around the stables. Horses were carefully groomed, harness was polished, and wagons were repainted and washed.

When the day for the show arrived there were 38 teams and wagons lined up, including escort wagons, ration carts, rolling kitchens, and our old friend--the water wagon. A preliminary inspection of horses, wagons, equipment and men followed, and here the judges commenced to have trouble, for the turnout exceeded all expectations, and there was little to choose between the various entrants.

By a careful process of elimination, however, the five winners were finally picked, and, by unanimous consent, another prize was added for a water wagon which had only boasted one horse.

A. E. F. FENCERS ARE INVITED TO COMPETE

An invitation has been extended to fencers in the A.E.F. to participate in the fencing contests which will be a feature of the international tournament to be held in Strasbourg in February.

Entries should be mailed to J. J. Carey, director of the athletic department, Knights of Columbus, Paris.

THE RETURN OF SPORTS

With the resumption of the Sporting Page in THE STARS AND STRIPES, we desire to request the hearty co-operation of our friends and fellow soldiers in the A.E.F. so that this page may prove of real interest and benefit to all our readers.

Lack of space will not permit the publication of individual scores, nor is there any real news in the statement that Company Z defeated Company X in a baseball game down at Flooey-sur-Seine.

The average American soldier has lost his interest, for the time being at least, in professional and other sports at home, for the top notchers of the sporting world are in Europe wearing khaki and for the past year or more the sport of soldiering has been enough to keep the doughboy's mind and body fully occupied. Now that peace is on the way, and Uncle Sam has determined upon a broad program of athletic activities for his Army, it is only a matter of days when every Yank will be devoting a whole afternoon each day to some line of sport, whether it be baseball, football, basket ball, tennis or track.

Our aim shall be to touch but lightly upon sports at home and to chronicle broadly the athletic activities of the A.E.F. The test we shall apply to news for publication will be the number interested.

Mr. Yankee soldier, general or private, this is your page. The Sporting Editor will be glad to answer all queries, will be thankful for all suggestions, and will endeavor to serve you in every way.

COLLEGE OARSMEN ENTER BIG RACE

Welcome Chance to Meet European Talent on the Seine

From present indications, America will be well represented in the coming international boat race on the Seine. Already the entry list has passed the half-hundred mark, and a majority of these are from the A.E.F.

Old Harvard and Cornell oarsmen, particularly, welcome the opportunity of engaging in their favorite sport and competing with the cream of European talent.

Among others who have already signified their intention of competing are Lieut. E. H. Dole, Cornell, 1910-13; Cpl. R. O. Pennell, freshman and 'varsity crew, Columbia University, 1915-16; Sgt. James A. Whelen, New York Athletic Club for the past eight years; Cpl. F. E. Seymore, Malta Boat Club, Philadelphia, and Capt. Harry L. Lott, world's champion crew, St. Louis.

SPORTING GOSSIP

While the war has planey havoc with sports in America, professional baseball and intercollegiate athletics being the chief sufferers, it has been the cause of a far reaching revival of the art of boxing and has introduced a large number of young Americans to the great outdoors, making them realize, for the first time in many cases, the benefits to be derived from open air exercise, plain food and a reasonable amount of sleep. The final result of the war, as it affects athletics in general, cannot help but be beneficial. Thousands of Yanks will go back to the States, robust and strong and in love with outdoor life. And as to boxing, its recognition by the officials of the Army and Navy as a helpful means of developing young manhood, has already done much to life the odium which has been attached to this sport in the past.

Speaking of war and its relation to athletics, we notice many odd items in exchanges from the United States. One states that the price of golf balls is to be advanced and that their production is to be limited by the government to 40 per cent of the output of 1918. Another item informs us that the Goat Island Naval Station, San Francisco, has found a new way to settle disputes between its men, who are allowed to have "grudge fights," donning the gloves and "going to it" before their fellows until a satisfactory decision is reached. Still another--the oddest of all— revives the old question as to the status of the Marine. "Is a Marine a sailor, and if not, what is he?" It seems that a trophy was offered for the first sailor to finish in the Dipsea race at San Francisco, and Albert Pinther, a Marine, was awarded the trophy by the committee in charge, whereupon a protest was filed by a Navy entrant upon the ground that a member of the Marine is not to be regarded as a sailor. The cup was withheld pending a decision by the Navy Department.

The old question as to whether or not football at night by searchlight is practicable has been settled. It was left for the ambitious athletic authorities of the University of Michigan to put it to the test. Ferry Field at Ann Arbor was "all lit up" and when the college footballists took the field everything appeared lovely. It was not long, however, before it was found that the strong lights affected the eyes and the scheme was immediately abandoned.

No doubt the resumption of the sporting page in THE STARS AND STRIPES comes as good news to many in the A.E.F. We hope to make it "good news" at any rate if the boys of the A.E.F. will co-operate. Write us as often as you like upon sporting questions and if we can serve you, it will be our pleasure to do so. Unfortunately our space is limited and for this reason we shall naturally publish athletic news which has the greatest interest for the largest number.

Announcement that baseball, basket ball and other American sports are becoming popular among our Allies and especially our English cousins, fulfills the expectation of all those who understand these games and understand the sport loving Tommy. If there is only one thing about the English the Yank has come to appreciate more than any other, it is this love of wholesome sport which is a national characteristic of the Englishman. The same splendid sporting qualities which make the English soldier such a fair fighter and sticker in battle likewise come to the surface when he throws aside his gun and gas mask and turns to play. We welcome his interest in our games, and hope he will come to play them as well as we do ourselves.

It is not surprising that Uncle Sam has decided to adopt a system of mass athletic training for the Army. Mass athletics is the only form of sport which makes it necessary for every one to do his bit. No matter how poor an athlete a man is, his score counts in the final total which spells defeat or victory. Colleges in the United States are gradually abandoning the athletic system by which a few students, divinely blessed with fine physique, are chosen to battle for their alma mater. In place of these contests, where thousands cheer a few on to mighty athletic effort, they are endeavoring to stimulate universal participation, so that all may benefit physically. The spectacular side of the big college baseball and football games may be lost, but the benefit derived by the new system in the improvement of the average student's health will more than balance in the final analysis.

BRITISH LIKE OUR BASKET BALL GAME

Two Crack Teams of Yank Players to Make Tour at Their Request

WILL DEMONSTRATE ART

143rd Field Artillery and Orly Aviation Quints Selected by Officials

Two crack basketball teams of the American Expeditionary Force will make a tour of the British front and rest camps and play a series of exhibition contests in order to demonstrate to the British soldier just how the game is played.

The two teams selected for this work are the 143rd F.A. quint and the Orly Aviation team, composed of aviation mechanics. The first named organization has a record of having won 52 games without a single defeat during its stay in France, while the record made by Orly is almost as good.

An official request for the trip from the British Mission to American Headquarters was immediately granted, and the necessary orders were at once issued so that the players might be granted leave.

A Y.M.C.A. basketball coach will accompany the players. The Orly Aviation team will be under command of Chaplain Fred C. Thompson, former world's champion athlete, while Second Lieut. J. E. Hornbaker will have charge of the 143rd F.A. players.

The two teams will line up with the following men: 143rd F.A.—Sgt. John White, Cpls. Ralph Kendrick, Douglas Powning and Raymond Griffin, and Pvts. Al White, Bernard Hyde and Harry Burton. Orly Aviation—Sgts. Rue, Horst and Evans, and Pvts. Feinman, Press, Volmer, Halbleid and Cole.

DIVIDE TENNIS HONORS

French and Australian racquet wielders divided honors in the Allies' Military Tennis tournament held at the Tennis-Club de Paris, when a number of Americans competed.

Finals in the championship singles resulted in a contest between Lieutenant Gobert and Lieutenant Decugis, of the French Army, honors going to the first named, 6—4, 2—1.

Major Heath and Sergeant Lycett, of the Australian Army, won the championship doubles from Lieutenant Gobert and Sergeant Ayme, of the French Army, 6—2, 10—8.

BASE HOSPITAL 22 AFTER PIGSKIN TITLE

W. H. Bender, manager of the Base Hospital 22 football team, composed largely by former University of Wisconsin gridiron stars, declares there will be no armistice agreeable to him until his team has a chance to tackle any other eleven in the A.E.F. claiming honors.

Other managers who desire to communicate with him upon this question should write him care of A.P.O. 705.

TENNIS MAY BECOME MAJOR COLLEGE SPORT

Colleges in the United States may adopt tennis as a major sport if the efforts of Julian S. Myrick, vice-president of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, bear fruit.

WITH THE PUGS

American pugilists had one big day at the recent King's Trophy Bouts in London, although first honors in the meet went to the British. Upon this occasion the Yanks managed to win five out of six contests. Eddie McGoorty, who was defeated by Bombardier Wells tried to make it a clean sweep but he found the advantage of height, reach and weight which lay with his English opponent, too much of a handicap, and finally "bit the dust." The trip was made under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus and the receipts went for the benefit of wounded English soldiers.

Danny Morgan, the well known Wales scrapper, won over Private 'Gene Delmont, U.S. Army, in a well contested 15 round bout at the National Sporting Club in London last week.

Jimmy Wilde, champion bantamweight of England, has been matched to meet Charles Ledoux, French bantamweight champion of Europe, the match to take place some time in February.

American University Union in Europe
Headquarters: 8 Rue de Richelieu, Paris.
LONDON BRANCH 16 Pall Mall East, S.W. 1. ROME BRANCH Hotel Royal, via 20 Settembre.
The Union wishes to serve American College Men in Europe in every possible way.

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23 Ave. George V (formerly de l'Alma)
PARIS
MILITARY SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY
4:30 to 5:30 P.M.
War Choir Military Band
YOU ARE WELCOME

'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor
The 'Ever-Ready' is the standby of every Yank—because it gives a smooth, quick shave under any and all conditions. The marvelous "Radio" Blades are keen to shave you—hair-tested and wrapped dust and moisture proof.
'Ever-Ready' Safety Razors and 'Ever-Ready' Radio Blades can be obtained at all Y.M.C.A. canteens.
'Ever-Ready' Blades fit all other Safety razors similar in construction.
American Safety Razor Co., Inc., Brooklyn, N. Y.

CHARLES DILLINGHAM
Sends
Greetings to the Boys
"OVER THERE"
From the New York
HIPPODROME
"OVER HERE"

Ask for
THE BACHIA BRAND OF HAVANA CIGARS
Superior in quality
Made in New York, U.S.A.

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Quick Service to American Officers while overseas

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FARQUHARSON CANDY
Always for Quality
Surprise the Folks at Home
75 Cents a Pound
Parcel Post per Pound:—
7 cents in New England.
10 cents East of Miss. River.
12 cents West of Miss. River.
Foreign Currency Accepted
FARQUHARSON CANDY SHOP
1366 Beacon Street,
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My Tribute to France!
Pauline L. Divers, New York, N.Y.
Well, it's out! Most what you like and companionable book on France—just the book to send Mother, the GIRL—tells where you are, how safe you are in the land where the Genius of France is leading and protecting the "Crusader Boys" of America. In it you have History, the meaning of places and things for the reading, and maps in five colors. Order for the Holidays. Postpaid to any point in the World for $1.50. French and Italian editions on press.

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THE BRISTOL MFG. CO.
BRISTOL, Conn., U.S.A.
Knit Underwear for Men, Shirts and Drawers for the Army, "Sandman" Sleeping Garments for Children
"Unsurpassed for excellence of finish and regularity of make."

Quelque cigare!
Make that plural, please! OWL and white OWL can *both* be depended on to make that w. k. Doug. Fairbanks grin roost on a Doughboy's face.
At the Canteen!
OWL
white OWL
TWO DEPENDABLE CIGARS
FRIENDS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY SINCE 1876
General Cigar Company, Inc. New York

Minute Tapioca Company
Orange, Mass.

From the Minute Man of '76 to the Minute Men of 1918 in France

COMRADES:
In '76 I didn't see the newspapers and didn't have a chance to see or hear what our people thought of us and our doings. This time I am here while you boys are over there doing the fighting.
I wish you could see the papers nowadays. It would surely make you feel good to know what we think of you and to know how proud we are.
Before you boys got into the midst of things we heard about the Blue Devils, the Ladies from Hell and the Anzacs—now it is the "Devil Dogs" and the Yankees that are coming in for the glory.
Just listen to these headlines:
"Americans Stand Firm under Powerful Blow."
"Americans Capture —— in Bayonet Fighting and Force Huns Back After Savage Counter Attacks."
"United States Bayonets Rout Germans."
"Americans Win Big Battle, Hurl Enemy Across River."
"American Valor Praised by French."
"Marines Went Over the Top Singing 'Yankee Doodle.'"
And so they go. We knew it, didn't we? We knew it the day war was declared. George Cohan knew it when he wrote "The Yanks Are Coming." There's nothing to it now. The Yanks are still coming and coming fast. The whole world is banking on U. S. That's us.
Go to it boys—we're rooting for you.
THE MINUTE MAN OF '76.

Send the word—over Home that you like—
BISHOP'S
Calarab Figbuds
The Fig Confection from California
BISHOP & COMPANY · · · LOS ANGELES, CAL

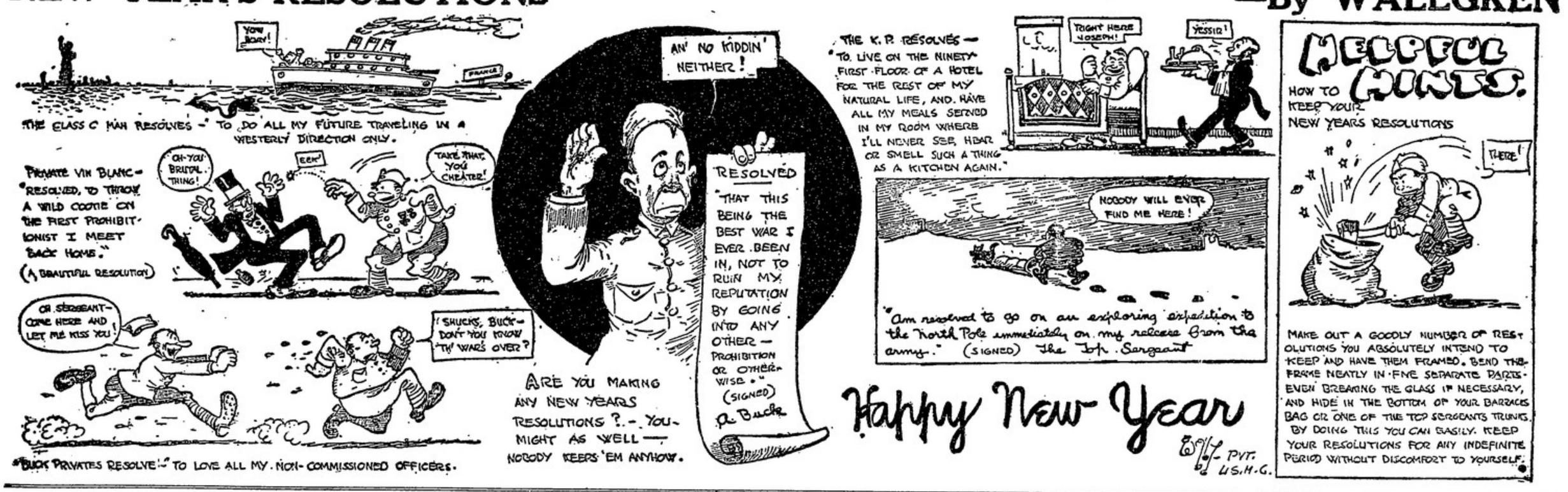
WRIGLEY'S

The long-lasting sweetmeat
"Mademoiselle, I offer you a favorite American tid-bit."
"Merci bien, mon brave homme!"
The Flavor Lasts
Get it at Canteens, Y. M. C. A. huts, and all candy or tobacco shops

Gillette SAFETY RAZOR
No Stropping—No Honing
Gillette U.S. Service Set
PACKETS of new Gillette Blades—each Blade wrapped in oiled paper enclosed in sanitary envelope—bright, smooth, sharp and clean, can be obtained at all dealers in France, England, Russia, Italy, Canada and all other parts of the world.
PRICE OF GILLETTE BLADES
Packet of 12 Blades ... 6 Francs
Packet of 6 Blades ... 3 Francs
To be had at A.E.F. & Y.M.C.A. Canteens or at all Dealers in France.
GILLETTE SAFETY RAZOR, S.A., 17bis Rue La Boëtie, PARIS

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

—By WALLGREN



CENSUS UNDER WAY TO GET FULL DATA ON EVERY SOLDIER

Grading of Officers Completed, Enlisted Men Being Tackled

ACCURATE ESTIMATE MADE

Would Fit Veterans Into Proper Places If Call for New Army Ever Comes

When the A.E.F. exists in history only and its recent members have gone back into the civilian life of 48 states, Uncle Sam will have at his finger tips an accurate estimate of the soldierly and business abilities of all the officers and men who have fought and worked themselves out of a job in France by the simple process of helping win the war.

If the occasion should arise for forming another American Army, the job could be done quickly and probably much more efficiently by consulting these personal records of the men who served in this war. Officers and men misplaced in the A.E.F. by circumstances could be fitted into the places for which they are best qualified.

On December 15 there was completed in the A.E.F. what might be termed a census of officers in all branches of service. Every officer had been graded on his war record, soldierly qualities and his standing in his peace time occupation.

Two Cards Filled Out

As a part of his official record there had been prepared a rating card, drawn up by his immediate superior officer and revised or approved by a still higher superior. In addition each officer has filled out a qualification card, which recites all the facts of his military career and his experience in civil life occupations.

For enlisted men there is now being made a similar census, based on the qualification cards which have already been prepared and filed at the Central Records Office, Bourges. Statistics are to be prepared from these qualification cards showing the number of men of each occupation or trade in the Army. The cards themselves form an index to the relative skill of each man in his occupation, and recite all the other occupations in which he has had experience.

In the ratings of officers just completed, five general factors formed the basis of the estimates superior officers made of the officers under them.

Under physical qualities, an officer was graded on the way he impressed his men by his physique, bearing, neatness, voice, energy and endurance. Under intelligence, points considered were accuracy, ease in learning and ability to grasp new points of view and to overcome difficulties.

Buck Passing Frowned On

Leadership, the third point, was based on force, self-reliance, initiative, decisiveness, tact, and ability to command obedience, loyalty and co-operation of men. Personal qualities considered were industry, dependability, loyalty, personal habits and readiness to shoulder responsibility for his own acts.

An officer's general value to the service, the fifth point, was judged from his value as an administrator and as instructor and his capacity for arriving quickly at a sensible decision in a crisis.

In making the above gradings, each superior officer was ordered to use the principle of comparing the officer to be graded with other officers. A list of officers would be prepared in order of their rating for a given quality and the officer under consideration would be judged according to the place where he would fit into the list, that is presumably between two of the other officers on the list, or approximately equal to some officer in the quality being estimated.

That is, if A were being graded, a list would be prepared of B, C, D, E and F. Then the grading officer might determine that A was not quite so good as C but was better than D.

TRANSPORT MEN DECORATED

Two lieutenants, one sergeant and one private, members of the American Mission, Reserve Mallet, were awarded Croix de Guerre for bravery under fire in a decoration ceremony held at Sedan December 14. The men are: 2nd Lieut. Frank O. Robinson, 2nd Lieut. Leroy F. Krusi, Sgt. William Frizzell and Pvt. Frederic Henneberry.

MAPS GO THROUGH MAILS

The lowering of the censorship bars now permits the mailing of maps, according to the Base Censor. Soldiers who wish to chronicle their wanderings in France on a chart instead of on letter paper may therefore do so.

MEDICAL UNITS GOING IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL

Outfits Attached to A.E.F. Likely to Beat Rest of Us Home

BASE 18 FIRST TO DEPART

Total of 864 Officers nd 1,329 Enlisted Men of M.D. Now Serving With British

Medical units of the A.E.F. will, so far as practicable, be returned to the States in the order of their arrival in France, and officers, nurses and enlisted men of six base hospitals which have been attached to the British forces since the middle of 1917 are entitled to return first under a policy formulated by the office of the Chief Surgeon.

As an exception to this rule, the very first unit to return will be Base Hospital No. 18, known as the Johns Hopkins unit, stationed at Bazoilles, which is now awaiting transportation arrangements. This unit was the first one to arrive for duty with the A.E.F. Arrangements for its return were made when cable dispatches from Baltimore stated that its personnel was badly needed at home. The unit arrived in France June 6, 1917.

The units serving with the British forces probably will not be returned in the exact order of their arrival, as this is conditional upon the facilities the British medical authorities have for releasing them. Base Hospital No. 2, which has been in charge of a British general hospital at Etretat, has been relieved of its duties with the British and probably will be the second medical unit to be returned.

First Unit to Arrive

The first American medical unit to arrive—the first detachment of the American Army to land in France, incidentally—is Base Hospital No. 4, known as the Lakeside Unit of Cleveland. It landed at Rouen May 24, 1917, where it took over a British hospital. A part of the personnel of this original unit was detached to conduct a mobile hospital that operated with the First American Army in the Argonne-Meuse drive.

Other American hospitals with the British Army are Base Hospital No. 21, at Rouen; Base Hospital No. 5, at Boulogne; Base Hospital No. 10, at Treport, and Base Hospital No. 12, at Camiers.

Where circumstances will permit, medical personnel who were detached from their units for service elsewhere will be permitted to rejoin their original units for return to the States.

American M.D.'s With British

A total of 864 officers and 1,329 enlisted men of the Medical Department are now serving with British troops, most of the enlisted men and about 130 officers being stationed at general hospitals.

More than 700 American medical officers are still attached to British units serving in the advanced area—attached to regiments, field ambulances, casualty clearing stations, or on special duties. The return of these officers to the A.E.F. or to the United States will be governed largely by the length of their service and other factors.

During hostilities the Chief Surgeon's Office endeavored to transfer American officers from the British forces to the A.E.F. after they had spent a period of service at the front and had profited from the training under the methods the British had worked out during four years of fighting.

Hospital Turned Over

Incidental to the departure of practically all American troops from England, four base hospitals and two camp hospitals are being turned over to the British by the American units which have been operating them. The hospitals are at Tottenham, Portsmouth, Dartford, Hursley Park, Romsey and Southampton.

Three other camp hospitals are to be returned to the French—No. 44 at Riom, No. 77 at Montmorillon, and No. 68 at Saintes. Three American Red Cross military hospitals are being turned over to the American Red Cross by the American Medical Department—No. 5 at Auteuil (Paris), No. 8 at Malabry, and No. 21 at Paignton.

OFFICERS' PAY RAISE LOST

A bill to increase by $500 the pay of all American officers below the rank of colonel was defeated in the House of Representatives after it had been passed by the Senate, just before the last session of Congress ended.

This is the answer to a question widely debated in the A.E.F. in recent weeks after the starting of a rumor that Congress had authorized the pay increase.

HIGHER COMMUTATION FOR MEN WHO TRAVEL

Rate May Reach Four Dollars a Day Under Certain Conditions

Enlisted men may draw $4 a day as commutation of rations and quarters, under certain conditions, by the terms of Change 79 in Army Regulations published by the War Department.

The change provides that when commutation at the regular rate—in most cases $2 a day for ratious and $1 for quarters—will not reimbuse the soldier for actual expenses of travel, the $4 rate may be directed to be given, provided the soldier is away from his regular station not more than 72 hours. If he remains at his temporary station more than 72 hours, but less than 30 days, he may receive $3 a day for the period after the first 72 hours. For all time after the first 30 days he may be given $1.75 per day.

No per diem commutation will be paid a soldier if at his place of temporary duty there exists, consistent with the nature of his duties, facilities for quartering or messing with other soldiers.

First Buck: What are you wearing a Cavalry hatcord for? Thought you was in the Q.M.?

Second Buck: So I am, but I bought the hatcord at night and it looked like buff.

YANKEE PRISONERS JUST MISS DUNGEON

Recaptured Americans Are Saved by Signing of Armistice

That the signing of the armistice saved from the dungeons of some fortress or the salt mines of Schleswig two American soldiers recaptured after escaping from a prison camp, and facing trial, is the statement of a native of Luxembourg, himself a prisoner for three years.

The Luxembourger, John Magonnette, a mechanical engineer who has taken out first citizenship papers in the United States, says the Americans were brought to their second prison, at Muenchen-Gladbach, in Prussia near Dusseldorf, about October 8, and were awaiting the decision of the high German military court at that place.

They were not permitted to speak to their guards or to the other prisoners, M. Magonnette said. On one occasion, when they asked for paper, the guards turned on them a torrent of invectives and jostled them roughly. For keeping only at five-foot intervals instead of ten while on their tri-weekly ten-minute periods of exercise in the yard they were given the "black cell," with bread and water. Their condition, M. Magonnette declared, was pitiful.

He was unable to ascertain their names or their history, but he said that when, on November 8, the Red Guards broke into the prison and released the inmates, the two Yanks were able to make their way out of the town and toward the Dutch border.

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BATTLE OF MEUSE—ARGONNE SAW A. E. F. MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT, DIVIDE ENEMY

Continued from Page 1

by the British Army Commander under whom they served.

On October 2-9 our 2nd and 36th Divisions were sent to assist the French in an important attack against the old German positions before Rheims. The 2nd conquered the complicated defense works on their front against a persistent defense worthy of the grimmest period of trench warfare and attacked the strongly held wooded hill of Blanc Mont which they captured in a second assault, sweeping over it with consummate dash and skill. This division then repulsed strong counter attacks before the village and cemetery of St. Etienne, and took the town, forcing the Germans to fall back from before Rheims and yield positions they had held since September, 1914. On October 9 the 36th Division relieved the 2nd and, in its first experience under fire, withstood very severe artillery bombardment and rapidly took up the pursuit of the enemy now retiring behind the Aisne.

Meuse-Argonne, Second Phase

The Allied progress elsewhere cheered the efforts of our men in this crucial contest as the German command threw in more and more first class troops to stop our advance. We made a steady headway in the almost impenetrable and strongly held Argonne Forest, for, despite his reinforcements, it was our Army that was doing the driving. Our aircraft was increasing in skill and numbers and forcing the issue, and our infantry and artillery were improving rapidly with each new experience. The replacements fresh from home were put into exhausted divisions with little time for training, but they had the advantage of serving beside men who knew their business and who had almost become veterans overnight. The enemy had taken every advantage of the terrain, which especially favored the defense, by a prodigal use of machine guns manned by highly trained veterans and by using his artillery at short range. In the face of such strong, frontal positions we should have been unable to accomplish any progress according to previously accepted standards, but I had every confidence in our aggressive tactics and the courage of our troops.

On October 4, the attack was renewed all along our front. The Third Corps tilting to the left followed the Briculles Cunel road, our Fifth Corps took Gesnes, while along the irregular valley of the Aire river and in the wooded hills of the Argonne that border the river, used by the enemy with all his art and weapons of defense, the First Corps advanced for over two miles. This sort of fighting continued against an enemy striving to hold every foot of ground and whose very strong counter attacks challenged us at every point. On the 7th, the First Corps captured Chatel-Chehery and continued along the river to Cornay. On the east of the Meuse sector, one of the two divisions co-operating with the French captured Consenvoye and the Haumont woods. On the 9th, the Fifth Corps, in its progress up the Aire, took Fleville, and the Third Corps which had continuous fighting against odds was working its way through Briculles and Cunel. On the 10th we had cleared the Argonne Forest of the enemy.

It was now necessary to constitute a Second Army, and on October 10 the immediate command of the First Army was turned over to Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett. The command of the Second Army whose divisions occupied a sector in the Woevre was given to Lieutenant General Robert L. Bullard, who had been commander of the 1st Division and then of the Third Corps. Major General Dickman was transferred to the command of the First Corps while the Fifth Corps was placed under Major General Charles P. Summerall, who had recently commanded the 1st Division. Major General John L. Hines, who has gone rapidly up from regimental to division commander, was assigned to the Third Corps. These four officers have been in France from the early days of the Expedition and had learned their lessons in the school of practical warfare.

Our constant pressure against the enemy brought day by day more prisoners, mostly survivors from machine gun nests captured in fighting at close quarters. On October 18 there was very fierce fighting in the Caures woods east of the Meuse and in the Ormont woods. On the 14th the First Corps took Saint Juvin, and the Fifth Corps, by hand to hand encounters, entered the formidable Kriemhilde line where the enemy had hoped to check us indefinitely. Later the Fifth Corps penetrated further the Kriemhilde line, and the First Corps took Champigneulles and the important town of Grand Pre. Our dogged offensive was wearing down the enemy, who continued desperately to throw his best troops against us, thus weakening his line in front of our Allies and making their advance less difficult.

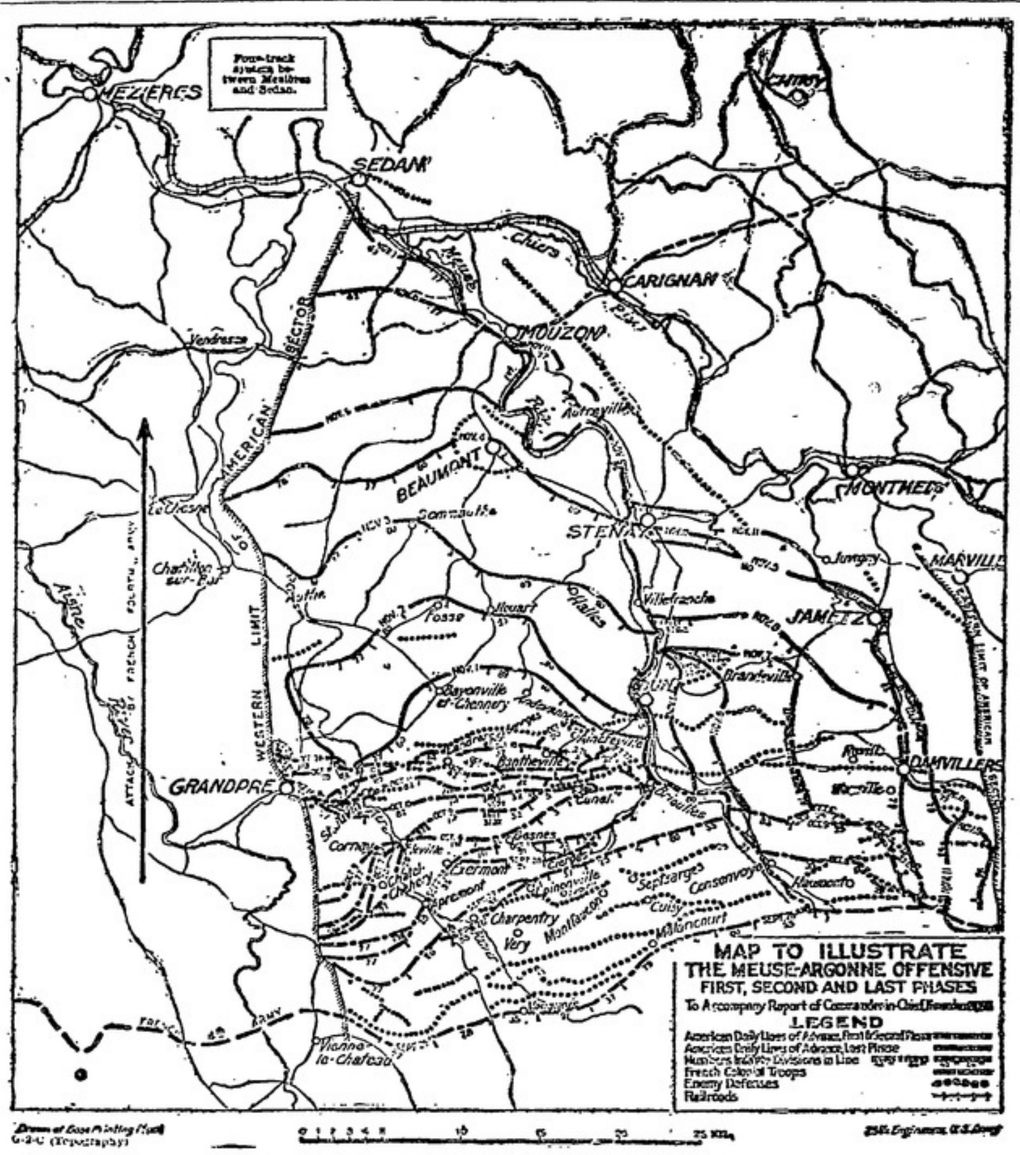
Divisions in Belgium

Meanwhile, we were not only able to continue the battle, but our 37th and 91st Divisions were hastily withdrawn from our front and dispatched to help the French Army in Belgium. Detraining in the neighborhood of Ypres, these divisions advanced by rapid stages to the fighting line and were assigned to adjacent French corps. On October 31, in continuation of the Flanders offensive they attacked and methodically broke down all enemy resistance. On November 3 the 37th had completed its mission in driving the enemy across the Escaut river and firmly established itself along the east bank included in the division zone of action. By a clever flanking movement, troops of the 91st Division captured Spitaals Bosschen, a difficult wood extending across the central part of the division sector, reaching the Schedlt and penetrated into the town of Audenarde. These divisions received the high commendation from their corps commanders for their dash and energy.

Meuse-Argonne, Last Phase

On the 23rd, the Third and Fifth Corps pushed northward to the level of Baulmes-les-Dames. While we continued to press forward and throw back the enemy's violent counter attacks with great loss to him, a re-grouping of our forces was under way for the final assault. Evidences of loss of morale by the enemy gave our men more confidence in attack and more fortitude in enduring the fatigue of incessant effort and the hardships of very inclement weather.

With comparatively well rested divisions the final advance in the Meuse-Argonne front was begun on November 1. Our increased artillery force acquitted itself magnificently in support of the advance, and the enemy broke before the determined infantry which, by its persistent fighting of the past weeks and the dash of this attack, had overcome his will to resist. The Third Corps took Aincreville, Doulon and Andevanne, and the Fifth Corps took Lardres et St. Georges and pressed through successive lines of resistance to Bayonville and Chennery. On the 2nd, the First Corps joined in the movement which now became an impetuous onslaught that could not be stayed.



On the 3rd, advance troops were hurried forward in pursuit, some by motor trucks, while the artillery pressed along the country roads close behind. The First Corps reached Authe and Chatillon-sur-Bar, the Fifth Corps, Fosse and Nouart, and the Third Corps Halles, penetrating the enemy's line to a depth of 12 miles. Our large caliber guns had advanced and were skillfully brought into position to fire upon the important railroad lines at Montmedy, Longuyon and Conflans. Our Third Corps crossed the Meuse on the 5th and the other corps, in the full confidence that the day was theirs, eagerly cleared the way of machine guns as they swept northward, maintaining complete co-ordination throughout. On the 6th a division of the First Corps reached a point on the Meuse opposite Sedan, 25 miles from our line of departure. The strategical goal which was our highest hope was gained. We had cut the enemy's main line of communications and nothing but surrender or an armistice could save his army from complete disaster.

In all 44 enemy divisions had been used against us in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Between September 26 and November 6 we took 16,059 prisoners and 468 guns on this front. Our divisions engaged were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82nd, 89th, 90th, 91st. Many of our divisions remained in line for a length of time that required nerves of steel while others were sent in again after only a few days of rest. The 1st, 2nd, 5th, 26th, 42nd, 77th, 79th, 80th and 90th were in the line twice. Although some of the divisions were fighting their first battle, they soon became equal to the best.

Operations East of the Meuse

On the three days preceding November 10, the Third Corps and the Second Colonial and Seventeenth French Corps fought a difficult struggle through the Meuse hills south of Stenay and forced the enemy into the plain. Meanwhile, my plans for further use of the American forces contemplated an advance between the Meuse and the Moselle in the direction of Longwy by the First Army, while at the same time the Second Army should assume the offensive toward the rich iron fields of Briey. These operations were to be followed by an offensive toward Chateau-Salins, east of the Moselle, thus isolating Metz. Accordingly, attacks on the American front had been ordered, and that of the Second Army was in progress on the morning of November 11, when instructions were received that hostilities should cease at 11 o'clock a. m.

At this moment the line of the American sector from right to left began at Port-sur-Seille, thence across the Moselle to Vandieres and through the Woevre to Beranvaux, in the foothills of the Meuse, thence along the foothills and through the northern edge of the Woevre forests to the Meuse at Mouzay, thence along the Meuse connecting with the French near Sedan.

Relations With the Allies

Co-operation among the Allies has at all times been most cordial. A far greater effort has been put forth by the Allied armies and staffs to assist us than could have been expected. The French Government and Army have always stood ready to furnish us with supplies, equipment and transportation and to aid us in every way. In the towns and hamlets wherever our troops have been stationed or billeted, the French people have everywhere received them more as relatives and intimate friends than as soldiers of a foreign army. For these things, words are quite inadequate to express our gratitude. There can be no doubt that the relations growing out of our associations here assure the permanent friendship between the two peoples. Although we have not been so intimately associated with the people of Great Britain, yet their troops and ours when thrown together have always warmly fraternized. The reception of those of our forces who have passed through England and of those who have been stationed there has always been enthusiastic. Altogether, it has been deeply impressed upon us that the ties of language and blood bring the British and ourselves together completely and inseparably.

Strength

There are in Europe altogether, including a regiment and some sanitary units with the Italian Army and the organizations at Murmansk, also including those en route from the States, approximately 2,053,347 men, less our losses. Of this total there are in France 1,338,169 combatant troops. Forty divisions have arrived, of which the infantry personnel of ten have been used as replacements, leaving 30 divisions now in France organized into three armies of three corps each.

The losses of the American Army up to November 18 are: Killed and died of wounds, 36,154; died of disease, 14,811; deaths unclassified, 2,204; wounded, 179,625; prisoners 2,163; missing, 11,660. We have captured altogether about 44,000 prisoners and 1,400 guns, howitzers and trench mortars.

Commendation

The duties of the General Staff, as well as those of the Army and Corps staffs, have been very ably performed. Especially is this true when we consider the new and difficult problems with which they have been confronted. This body of officers, both as individuals and as an organization, have, I believe, no superiors in professional ability, in efficiency, or in loyalty.

Nothing that we have in France better reflects the efficiency and devotion to duty of Americans in general than the Service of Supply, whose personnel is thoroughly imbued with a patriotic desire to do its full duty. They have at all times fully appreciated their responsibility to the rest of the Army, and the results produced have been most gratifying.

Our Medical Corps is especially entitled to praise for the general effectiveness of its work, both in hospitals and at the front. Embracing men of high professional attainments, and splendid women devoted to their calling and untiring in their efforts, this department has made a new record for medical and sanitary proficiency.

The Quartermaster Department has had a difficult and varied task, but it has more than met all demands that have been made upon it. Its management and its personnel have been exceptionally efficient and deserve every possible commendation.

As to the more technical service, the able personnel of the Ordnance Department in France has splendidly fulfilled its functions both in procurement and in forwarding the immense quantities of ordnance required. The officers and men and the young women of the Signal Corps have performed their duties with a large conception of the problem and with a devoted and patriotic spirit to which the perfection of our communications daily testify. While the Engineer Corps has been referred to in another part of this report, it should be further stated that their work has required large vision and high professional skill, and great credit is due their personnel for the high efficiency that they have constantly maintained.

Our aviators have no equals in daring or in fighting ability, and have left a record of courageous deeds that will ever remain a brilliant page in the annals of our Army. While the Tank Corps has had limited opportunity, its personnel has responded gallantly on every possible occasion and has shown courage of the highest order.

The Adjutant General's Department has been directed with a systematic thoroughness and excellence that surpasses any previous work of its kind. The Inspector General's Department has risen to the highest standards and throughout has ably assisted commanders in the enforcement of discipline. The able personnel of the Judge Advocate General's Department has solved with judgment and wisdom the multitude of difficult legal problems, many of them involving questions of great international importance.

It would be impossible in this brief preliminary report to do justice to the personnel of all the different branches of this organization which I shall cover in detail in a later report.

The Navy in European waters has at all times most cordially aided the Army, and it is most gratifying to report that there has never before been such perfect co-operation between these two branches of the Service.

As to Americans in Europe not in the military service, it is the greatest pleasure to say that, both in official and in private life, they are intensely patriotic and loyal, and have been invariably sympathetic and helpful to the Army.

Finally, I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardship, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal, and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country.

I am Mr. Secretary.

Very respectfully,

JOHN J. PERSHING,
General, Commander-in-Chief,
American Expeditionary Forces.

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