SECRETARY OF WAR VISITS FRONT LINE

Inspection Tour of A.E.F. Takes Him Into Listening Post

GREETED BY GERMAN GUNS

Shells Tear Crater Within 50 Yards of Automobile in Which Mr. Baker Is Riding

COMPLETE SURVEY OF FIELD

First, New England and Rainbow Divisions Complimented for Their Work

When Secretary Baker returns to his desk in Washington, he will carry with him the memory of life as it is lived under fire of the German guns.

True to the plans he had made when he set forth from Paris last week on his inspection tour of the A.E.F., he saw to it that that tour, which is still in progress, should carry him not only to the base ports, t' lines of communication, and the training fields, but all the way to the front line trenches.

Clad in trench coat, steel helmet, khaki breeches and boots borrowed from an accommodating colonel, and drilled in the use of the ever-present gas mask, he made his way over the shell torn fields to the trenches themselves, entered and explored the dugouts and reached at last the ultimate frontier of America-in-France when he visited and talked with the soldier on duty in the listening post of an advance sap.

There was no dissuading the Secretary of War from pushing on with his exploration of the sector despite the active fire from big guns and machine guns which the Germans were maintaining at the time and which seemed to have grown brisker for the occasion. His closest encounter with the realities of German gunfire, however, came not in the front line trenches themselves, but on his way back to headquarters when big German 105 mm. shells roared down and burst cleanly not 50 yards from the automobile which was bearing the Secretary and his escorting officers on the homeward trip. The shells hit a roadside dugout, opening up a big crater, and despite Mr. Baker's desire to get out and explore the consequences, the more prudent chauffeur put on top speed along the straight road to safety.

This, which befell toward the close of a day which began in the chill of 4 a.m., was the liveliest incident in a memorable and crowded journey among the A.E.F. in the course of which Mr. Baker has talked with high and low and seen and noted much for his better understanding of America's task.

Americans Not "Soft"

"After a long period of peace in which our mettle had not been tried by war, and we had known commercial success and comfort," he said in his address to the men of the First Division, "some skeptics feared that we had grown soft. I shall bring home the message from our men in France, who have given up their comfortable home life for the trenches, that we have not."

Thus he voiced one of the impressions made on him by a tour of inspection that could be best chronicled by a motion picture camera. The film would show the Secretary of War now walking the ties of some new-laid American railroad, now closing the breech of an ominous new gun the Americans will use, now craning his neck on an aviation field to watch the hundred pilots who had taken to the air at the signal of his approach.

It would show him with General Pershing examining the boilers in our huge cold-storage plant, where enough ice is supplied daily to protect 11,000,000 pounds of meat. It would show him examining our guns all painted up like a Winter Garden backdrop. It would discover him interviewing the chief nurse just outside the postoffice at one of our most imposing base hospitals, or, perhaps, chatting with a grinning stevedore, caught, mess tin in hand, on his way to provender. Now you would see him peering into the engine of a monoplane or comfortably ensconced on a flat-car; which, by dint of some hastily carpentered seats, had been turned into a quiet acceptable observation car for the purposes of this tour.

You would see the Secretary of War watching with interest the rescue work that goes on with the equipment turned in at one of the salvage plants. You would see him standing with bared, bowed head while the body of an American soldier was laid away in a little roadside cemetery over which the tricolor flies and on whose new-made graves the French have laid their flowers of remembrance.

Visits Artillery and Staff Schools

Mr. Baker visited not only the training field of the aviators, but a school of artillery and a staff school, encountering there a former Secretary of War of whom he openly expressed his envy. He visited the nerve center of the A.E.F., G.H.Q., addressing the staff officers there.

"I appreciate," he told them, "how you would prefer to leave your desks for the front lines where you could see the direct results of your efforts against the enemy. But you are at least in France, in which you are the envy of those who are held to their desks in the same kind of work at home."

In the course of his tour Mr. Baker had opportunities to say a few words to more than one group of American soldiers. He addressed the Rainbow Division; he had seen a good deal of it when it was in training at home.

"I thought that you marched well and drilled well when I last saw you," he said, "but what I have seen of you today gives me a new standard of comparison. The mark of the thorough system of our Army in France is upon you. I feel that you have all grown to a greater manhood and the steel of your spirit now has a fighting edge. Your own communities and the nation as a whole may well be proud of your good conduct and clean living, which go with clean hard fighting and the principles for which you fight."

In his speech to the First Division, with its distinction of being the first to arrive in France, Mr. Baker said:

"Yours was the first experience in being billeted and in all the initial details of adjusting yourselves to new and strange conditions. In this, as in developing a system of training, you were pioneers, blazing the way, while succeeding contingents could profit by your mistakes.

"Day after day and week after week you had to continue the hard drudgery of instruction which is necessary to proficiency in modern war. You had to restrain your impatience to go into the trenches under General Pershing's wise demand for thoroughness, the value of which you now appreciate as a result of actual service in the trenches. If sometimes the discipline seemed wearing, you now know that you would have paid for its absence with your lives and failure.

"If I have any advice to give, it is to strike hard and shoot straight; and I would warn you at the same time against any carelessness, any surrender to curiosity which makes you a mark needlessly. The better you are trained, the more valuable is your life to your country, as a fighter who seeks to make a soldier of the enemy rather than yourself pay the supreme price of war. On every hand, I am told you are prepared to 'fight to the end.' I see this spirit in your faces. Depend upon us at home to stand by you in a spirit worthy of yours.

Praise for New England Troops

"Another early arrival among the divisions was that from New England, which, in common with all other divisions whether Regular, National Guard or National Army, are a part of a homogeneous national force. From the day of my arrival in France, I have been hearing praise of the New England Division, which has made good in its initial experience in the trenches in a manner to guarantee that it will be equal to future emergencies. It trained rapidly, as later divisions are training rapidly, because of the longer period of prefatory training at home.

"Some of the men in this division are probably descended from the Minute Men of the Revolution and Ethan Allan's Mountaineers, and others from soldiers who went to the Civil War from New England. Those whose fathers came to America since the Civil War have had an opportunity to prove that their Americanism is of the same quality as that of the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, even better Americanism, we hope, as an augury for the future. Whether the soldier is from the factory towns or the farms or the Maine woods, the account I hear is equally good."

WAR SECRETARY'S TOUR OF FRANCE INTERESTS U. S.

Continued from Page 1

sented themselves for solving the problems: First, by furnishing money or credits directly from the Treasury, which would demand $4,000,000,000 or $5,000,000,000 in bonds additional to the Liberty Loans and other Governmental financing; second, by empowering the Federal Reserve Bank system to do it, which would entail a hugely increased burden and divert that system from its proper and important function of promoting and safeguarding the whole country's commercial undertaking; third, by setting up a Government corporation as contemplated in this Bill making the Government the only stockholder and throwing all the safeguards around it that appeal to the business interests of the country.

Representative Joseph Fordney of Michigan, ranking Republican member of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, supported the Bill, saying the committee had reported a measure calculated to achieve the desired result. All participants in the debate carefully disavowed any desire to make partisan capital out of the argument over the measure.

Comment by public organs is colorless, and on the whole favors the passage of the measure.

Pennsy May Help New Haven

The first big question before Director of Railroads McAdoo under the scheme of railroad financing by the Government is the problem of meeting $43,000,000 New Haven notes, issued last year and falling due on April 15. The railroad company is, of course, responsible for this debt, which was incurred before the management of the railroads was taken over; but the managers desire that the Government take up at least half of the notes out of the "revolving fund" established by the Government to finance the roads, while the other half is to be met by the New Haven through the sale of part of the 7 per cent preferred stock issue authorized by the stockholders last October.

The Pennsylvania railroad may help, as the largest stockholder in the New Haven, by drawing on its own new $75,000,000 bond issue, authorized at a recent stockholders' meeting. A few years ago this single proposition would doubtless have occupied columns in the newspapers, but now America is so accustomed to huge figures and to Government participation in all public concerns that the matter creates hardly a ripple, and the news is printed as a mere item.

DRYS' VICTORY IN NEW YORK IS POSTPONED

Continued from Page 1

the amendment legally, but suddenly they raised the issue that the present legislature was elected before Congress took action, and that fairness demanded a referendum to the people.

The flank attack succeeded, and it now appears that the present legislature will send the question of the adoption of the amendment to the public, to vote on next autumn, unless the dry advocates succeed in some unexpected counterattack. They have appealed to Whitman to exert pressure, and he has been asked if he will veto the referendum measure; but he declines to state in advance what he will do with Bills before they reach him. He does state, however, that he is for the ratification of the amendment.

Meanwhile, the local drying up of liquid joy goes on everywhere. The Navy Department has closed up 50 saloons in Newport, R.I., and dark rumors whisper that owners of summer homes there are stocking up frantically.

The Texas senate has passed a statewide prohibition Bill, by a vote of 17 to 9, and if the governor signs it, Texas will be as dry as the Mexican deserts on and after June 15, and the favorite American literature of "Texas bad men on bad Texas 'drunks'" will become mournfully historical.

The Wisconsin senatorial campaign has taken clear form. Senator La Follette has announced his support of James Thomson of Lacrosse, to succeed the late Senator Husting, against former Congressman Lenroot, who opposes La Follette. There is great national interest in the result.

SONG OF THE OVERSEAS CAP

(FROM THE SOLDIER'S VIEWPOINT)

They've found that "conditions are different
Than expected" since coming across;
The old campaign hat is abolished,
Though the Regular mourneth its loss,
The old Army lid was a beauty,
It gave us a feeling of pride,
But the kind they've been issuing lately
Makes us think all the tailors have died.
They might have been made by a rag-man
From the remnants he gathered in trade;
A dope-fiend must sure have designed them,
And a cubist concocted their shade.
They ruin the soldier's appearance,
We resemble an army of tramps,
Or a nut-factory out for an airing,
And cussing is heard in the camps.
Not a wearer but hateth his headgear,
And would cheerfully strangle the bloke
Who inflicted said mockery upon him
By his think-machine missing a stroke.
Though light, they relieve not the burden
Of care in the Regulars dome;
He hears the remarks of the Allies,
And secretly longs to be home.
Enduring the jibes and the scoffing
At the weird rag that's framing his face,
He goes on his way like a soldier
And tries to forget the disgrace.
The Yank is a pitiful figure
With this grin-getter topping his map;
Please, General, show us some mercy——
Devise a new Overseas Cap!

—RALPH J. HUTCHINSON, Q.M.C.

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EXTRA GRAND DANCE FOR MEN IN LONDON

A.E.F. One Steppers to Try Out Army Shoes at Special Event

AND THEN COMES BASEBALL

Even Yankee Civilians May Organize Team to Go Up Against Army and Navy

By GEORGE T. BYE
London Staff Correspondent of THE STARS AND STRIPES

LONDON, March 21. - - Dear Boss Editor: We hope you don't think we have dancing and other festivities on the brain just because I write so much about them. Remember what you told me in Paris, boss—to follow the A.E.F. men in Great Britain like a sticky shadow? Well, I've been riding their shadow day by day, honestly, but they've got two shadows, a big one and a little one. The big one seems to reflect the outlines of an awful large Yank fist. The more I study its swelling size and its hardening knuckles, I become more convinced that if I wrote one line about it—even though it would give little comfort to our savage enemy—you would change my nice words into this:

But the little shadow—sprightly little devil—is usually that of one-stepping Army shoes, and I hang on and make lots of undelettitious notes. . . . There's another grand, special dance in the offing, boss. A very special dance. An A.E.F. dance by, of and for A.E.F. men in London and vicinity.

The time is Saturday evening, March 23, beginning at 8:15, or 15 minutes after 20 in the way you Parisians figure time, boss. The place, the Institute Ballroom, 34 Crawford Street. The *premiere* lady, Miss Ellis, a professional dancer. The O.K. is that of the major general commanding the base section. The final flourish will be given by an Alabama jazz band.

Take Your Pick, Boys

So what is to be, is to be. There are invitations available for those Yanks whose lady friends are inclined to be a bit stately. Those needing lady friends will please send a rush requisition to the Q.M.--er-r-r-, Miss Ellis, I mean. As briefly as possible state requirements as to height, eyes, favorite geranium, etc., and write legibly on one side of the paper. Or go to any of A.E.F. Friday night hops at Selfridge's—see week before last's issue for details—and stir up something for yourself.

The same sergeants and corp'rals and doughboys who discuss the dance in soft voice, with downcast eyes, glossing their shapely nails the while, stiffen up briskly enough when you ask them what's doing as to baseball. So far as I can judge at this early date, the English language as spoken in England is going to be enriched with a lot of lumpy lingo before the summer fades away. A few of the lumps:

"Four-r-r balls, hey? Take yer base, hey? Get the dust our of yer lamps, nut, if you wanta empire 'round here!"

"Back to the trenches! Who told you you could pitch, you bum bomber!"

"Fanned again, big mutt! Hell of an eye you got! Thass 'bout the way you'll swat the Boches! Good night, nurse!"

Canadians No Slouches

An Anglo-American baseball league is being organized on the framework of one that was in existence last season but had no A.E.F. participants. There will be eight teams, four American and four British. And it's not going to be as soft for the Yanks as you imagine. There are two crack teams among Canadian hospital bands in these parts, and in the gradual Americanization of bonny England quite a number of sporty cricketers have forsaken the wickets for our national pastime.

There will be two teams from the U.S. Navy headquarters and A.E.F. base section, another made up of lively base runners from the American embassy and the general consulate, and a fourth of American civilians. The embassy and consulate played last year, also civilians. It is barely possible that the muftis will be qsueezed out and the fourth team made up jointly of Army and Navy men. The British lineup is not definite either at this writing. The Yank arrangements are being made by an A.E.F. captain.

One team has already been made up of A.E.F. men. Its organizer modestly hopes that the boys will make a good showing. His modesty is cruel. My heart goes out to those innocent boys in blue who wear the inverted peg-top panties. They don't know what they're up against—a utility infielder late of the Brooklyn Nationals, a star battery from the University of California, and a shifty-footed shortstop from Leland Stanford U. And the modest organizer says he does hope to pull a little surprise in the shape of an Iowa corn-shucker who seems to know something about first base. Crn-el, crn-el for the Navy.

MEDAL IS BESTOWED IN UNUSUAL SETTING

Captain Archie Roosevelt, Twice Wounded, Receives Award for Bravery

It was under rather unusual circumstances—that is, in view of former presentations to American soldiers—that Captain Archibald Roosevelt, son of Colonel Roosevelt, received his *Croix de Guerre* for the two wounds he sustained while in action. Captain Roosevelt is now resting in an evacuation hospital back of the lines, and the injuries to his left arm and leg are reported as well on the mend.

The ceremony of presentation took place in the hospital itself, immediately after the captain had been operated on. The white-robed nurses and the doctors were standing about, the air was heavy with the usual "hospital smell" of anesthetics, and the patient was partially covered with a sheet when the French general and his party arrived. It was altogether a different scene from that of previous *Croix de Guerre* presentations, in the presence of at least a battalion of troops, out in the open and with the standards flying.

The general stepped beside the table on which Captain Roosevelt lay, and began his speech of presentation. He expressed the pride of the people of France in having a member of one of America's illustrious families fighting with them, and complimented the captain on his bravery. He lauded the valor of all the Americans on the battle line. Then he kissed Captain Roosevelt on both cheeks, and pinned the Cross upon his chest.

The captain in reply, thanked him simply, saying that he did not believe he deserved such an honor.

Captain Roosevelt was wounded on March 11 while with his men in a trench. American artillery preparation for a raid was in progress. The Germans apparently thought it was coming from the trench in which Captain Roosevelt's men were situated, and consequently barraged it.

The raid was launched from another sector, but during the German bombardment a shell burst near Captain Roosevelt, giving him a compound fracture of the arm and sending some of the splinters into his leg.

The citation accompanying Captain Roosevelt's decoration states that he "was twice wounded by shell fragments upon the field of honor in pursuit of his duties, showing unexcelled bravery with his troops while awaiting the order to go forward on a surprise attack into the enemy's lines. He has shown himself valorous, and worthy of specific mention."

IT ISN'T DONE IN FRANCE

Newcomers Should Save Whistling Until They're Alone

Don't whistle in France.

This admonition isn't necessary to Americans who have been over here a few weeks, but it's a good tip to new arrivals.

Whistling is something no French gentleman ever does and, on the street, it's the next thing to an insult. "Tipperary" is a grand old tune, but sing it if you have to get it out of your system.

The hiss is the recognized means of attracting attention over here. Thus is custom reversed.

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SERVICE CHEVRONS BEGIN TO BLOSSOM

Regulations for Wearing Zone of Advance Decoration Announced

Several hundred men of the A.E.F. who landed in France more than six months ago and who have been serving since then uninterruptedly in what constitutes the French Zone of the Advance have blossomed out in the last few days with their service chevrons.

The service chevron, according to regulations, is to be worn on the left sleeve. It is a V-shaped bar of gold lace of an inch wide. The angle formed by the V is the same as in the case of a lance corporal's chevron. But, to differentiate it from the chevrons worn by non-commissioned officers, it is to be worn point down, and on the lower half of the sleeve, and point to be one inch above the cuff braid in the case of officers, and four inches from the sleeve edge in the case of enlisted men.

Additional chevrons, as they are earned, will be placed a quarter of an inch above the preceding chevron. On officers' coats bearing the looped knot insignia of rank, the chevron will be superimposed upon the insignia, with the point of the lowest chevron one inch below the lower angle of the knot.

Duty Not Considered

To wear the chevron, a man must have served six months in the geographical area which the French Army designates as the Zone of the Advance; that is, the right to wear it is based on situation rather than on amount of duty performed. Whatever, therefore, may be the decision about awarding a campaign badge—such as the Army has already given for service in the Islands and along the Mexican border—the war service chevron is limited to those officers and men who have spent their half year in the French Army Zone of the Advance.

The wound chevron it to be the same in shape, size and material as the war service chevron. It will, however, be worn on the right instead of on the left sleeve.

A.E.F. SOCIETY NOTES

A pleasant Hun-sticking party was enjoyed up on the Chemin des Dames by some of the Boston lads quite recently. Black eyes and split beans were served to the visitors. Quite a number of them decided to remain as guests of their American hosts for an indefinite stay.

* * *

Private Hi Gink, of the Umpteenth Infantry, was a recent visitor in Paris, putting up at the exclusive Hotel Ste. Anne. Private Gink comes from an old Podunk family, closely related to the de Ginks of Ginkumville, who are blamed for being among the first settlers of Arizona.

* * *

The base ports are busy places these days, with new arrivals coming in every hour. Hotel accommodations are said to be at a premium. The flock of visitors has been so great that little or no attempt has been made to entertain them on a large scale, other than to offer them setting up exercises and purely formal functions, such as reveille.

* * *

A charmingly informal foot inspection party was held up in the trenches not long ago, under the auspices of the Medical Corps. Quite a number of prize hoofs were exhibited, the No. 12's being particularly fetching.

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