

"HONOR TO THEIR VALOR," SAYS FRANCE'S PREMIER OF AMERICANS

To THE STARS AND STRIPES:—

Last September, I said to several of your magnificent soldiers whose guest I was: "You are going to be called upon to make a great effort and to fulfill it, perhaps, at the cost of your life. We can feel only gratitude and friendship for you who have come from afar to help us."

Today we have seen them at their task. Men who served with impassioned zeal the democratic ideal we want to save, they are worthy of their great forbears. Honor to their valor.



THEY'LL BE OVER, GEORGE HIMSELF AND DOZENS MORE

Weber and Fields, Maude Adams, Elsie Ferguson to Join A.E.F.

NO, NOT IN THE MOVIES!

Real Flesh and Blood American Stars Will Tour Y.M.C.A. Hut Circuit

BILLIE BURKE? OF COURSE

Jim Corbett?—Yes—John Drew?—Lillian Russell?—Sure—Nobody's Been Left Out

Elsie Janis came and saw and conquered and cabled home to her brothers and sisters of the stage to come on over or they'd never know what they had missed. And they are coming, the brightest stars in the American theatrical firmament.

Maude Adams, George Cohan, Jimmy Powers, Marguerite Clark, Weber and Fields, Marie Doro, Elsie Ferguson, Jack Barrymore—they have one and all enlisted for a tour in the most honorable circuit any booking office can offer a player these days—the Y.M.C.A. huts of France.

This advance of the players is the result of the tour of investigation made last fall by Winthrop Ames and E. H. Soehner. When they got back they formed the "Americans Over There Theater League," made the irrepressible Cohan a leading spirit of it, and laid plans to send among the A.E.F. some 75 or 80 small companies. They will make the most of those who, like Elsie Janis, need no properties or assistants in furnishing a whole evening's entertainment.

To Be Heard in Every Camp

The players will be called upon to play the A.E.F. for tons lasting anywhere from ten to 20 weeks, and no visit will be so brief that the actor will not have a hearing in every camp before he sets sail for home and the dear old box office. In particular, comedians are wanted. The motto of the "Americans Over There Theater League" might well be "The Merrier the More."

Billie Burke is coming. Flo Ziegfeld (her husband) has made up his mind to do without her for three months.

Willie Collier is coming. He says he will lead a company or carry a spear or do anything so long as they let him come.

Jane Cow (they used to call her Cry-Jane) has dried those tears and will try to qualify.

John Drew, Otis Skinner, Julia Marlowe, Lillian Russell, Ruth Chatterton, Frances Starr, Tom Wise, James J. Corbett—these are only a few of the recruits.

Volunteers 4,600 Strong

Some 4,600 vaudeville players have volunteered for your amusement. The Lambs, the Friars, the Players and other stage associations have offered to form companies and send them over the top in a body. It is simply a question of how many we want and how much room there is in the boats.

The vanguard will arrive next month. Before long, the Yanks resting up between adventures in the trenches may look upon the loveliness of Elsie Ferguson, watch Lew Fields at his ancient task of choking Joe Weber to death and listen while the author of "Over There" sings his own ditty through his own nose.

In order that they may move among us unmolested, the military numbers will wear Y.M.C.A. uniforms. Times Square is reliably reported as all agog at the thought of Willie Collier in a Y.M.C.A. uniform.

George Cohan, or Jim Corbett, Mr. Ames and Mr. Soehner further recommended that as the soldiers enjoyed their own shows better than any other kind, every support be given to company productions, and soon the Y.M.C.A. will have at every A.E.F. center a man who can help put on shows and a good stock of costumes, wigs, face paint, burnt cork, comedy teeth, scenery, one-act farces and other handy aids to amateur dramatics.

GARY SYSTEM DROPPED

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—This city has abolished the Gary school system, so-called, of vocational education with hardly a ripple.

The abolition had been accepted all along as a foregone conclusion, inasmuch as the system, introduced during the Mitchell administration, was one of the things most violently attacked by Mayor Hylan and the press that supported him during last fall's mayoralty campaign.

The Gary system had its origin in the public schools of Gary, Ind., and was transported to New York and tried out in a few of the city schools during the past four years. It had as advocates several of the more prominent educators connected with the work of the Rockefeller Foundation.

HOW YOU MAY WIN OUR ARMY'S DECORATIONS

In response to a flood of inquiries, G.I.Q. has issued a bulletin which interprets the distinction between the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal and which illustrates by examples the high standards of gallantry and service which have been set for these awards. The bulletin instructs all concerned in the proper method of recommendations and in the ceremony to be held when the awards are presented.

The big award is the Medal of Honor, closest American cousin of the celebrated V.C., which is the highest honor that can come to a British soldier. The D.S.C. and the Distinguished Service Medal are open to the officers and enlisted men of our Allies. Not so the Medal of Honor, which is for Americans only.

To deserve the Medal of Honor—which is an award for gallantry in action—a soldier must perform some deed of most distinguished personal bravery and self-sacrifice, an uncommonly hazardous and conspicuous one enough to single him out above all his comrades, a deed so clearly above and beyond all call of duty that no one could justly blame him for leaving it undone.

The Highest Valor

As a guide for commanders who may wish to recommend men for the Medal of Honor, some typical cases for which similar awards have been made in the Armies of our Allies are given in the bulletin. Here are two of them:—

Lieutenant — took command of his own and another company when both had suffered severely, and with great dash and success led them forward in attack under heavy machine gun fire. Seeing the battalion on his right held up by machine gun fire, he led a platoon to its help. Platoon went with only two men to a dugout. Leaving the men on top, he entered the dugout alone and brought up 14 prisoners.

Then he proceeded with his two men to another dugout which, with rifle and machine gun fire and bombs, had been holding up the attack. This dugout was reached and the crew was either killed or captured and the machine gun taken. Then, after another dugout by 15 of the enemy under an officer, and one of his men was killed and the other wounded. Undaunted still, Lieutenant — seized a rifle and shot no fewer than five of the enemy. Then, using another as a shield, he forced most of the survivors to surrender.

Such was the quickness, courage and resourcefulness of this young officer that he cleared several other dugouts alone or with one man, taking in all about 50 prisoners. He then fully consolidated his position and personally waded his front under heavy close range sniping in broad daylight when all others had failed to do so.

Private — was a stretcher bearer, and for three days and nights he strove unceasingly to bring the wounded into safety, dressing them and getting them food and water. He worked in an area which was swept by shell, machine gun and rifle fire, and several times he was knocked down and partially buried by enemy shells.

He rescued a comrade who had been blinded and was stumbling about ahead of their trench in full view of the enemy, who were sniping at him. He brought in another comrade under heavy shell fire, and on a third occasion he brought an arm which was under very heavy enemy fire of every description. Neither fire nor exhaustion deterred him from assisting in his humane work.

How D.S.C. Will Be Awarded

Like the Medal of Honor, the D.S.C. is an award for gallantry in action. It may be won by any one who may distinguish himself or herself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. It may recognize our country's best performance since April 6, 1917, the day our country went to war with Germany. It is for great gallantry—but not quite great enough to deserve the Medal of Honor.

As with the Medal of Honor, the bulletin illustrates the standard of the D.S.C. with several cases, of which two are given here:—

Lieutenant — gave proof of unhesitating devotion

and energy by leading his platoon to the assault, capturing numerous prisoners and presiding over the organization of a captured post in disregard of all danger.

While charged with the support and protection of a reconnaissance within the enemy's lines, he gave the best example of calmness, decision and courage under a particularly intense machine gun fire. Wounded in this action, he refused to let himself be evacuated and remained in command over his platoon.

Private —, an automatic rifleman of great bravery, remained alone at his post during a hostile attack, firing continuously until his gun was broken by a bullet.

Having no weapon with which to resist further and his lieutenant having



The Distinguished Service Cross, of bronze, full size. Obverse: On each arm of cross an oak leaf with a star at the stem; on scroll beneath eagle the words "E Pluribus Unum." Reverse: Laurel wreath transversed by ornamental staff and crossed by panel inscribed, "For Valor." Ribbon of royal blue, edged with stripes of white and red.

been badly wounded by his side, he put the latter upon his back and carried him in the open over shell-ploved ground under a heavy barrage fire to a first-aid post. He immediately rejoined the remainder of his company still in line.

Rules Governing D.S.M.

The Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded to any one who distinguishes himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility in time of war or in connection with operations against an armed enemy of the United States.

The Medal of Honor and the D.S.C. are for gallantry in action, the Distinguished Service Medal may be given for service involving no participation in action and no question of bravery. The Distinguished Service Medal might be awarded to any one fulfilling an admiration a duty of great responsibility far behind the lines or even back home in the States.

It may be awarded to persons serving at posts far removed from the theater of operations. It may be awarded to commanders or to members of their staff who give exceptionally capable performances of duty in responsible positions which are none the less trying and difficult because they call for no gallantry in action and hold their man well beyond range of the enemy's guns.

With the Distinguished Service Medal, our Army has for the first time its history an award for the strategist, for the man who plans. The work of such a soldier as General Persh would never permit him to be a candidate for the Medal of Honor or the D.S.C. But such as he could win the Distinguished Service Medal.

Recommendations for Awards

Recommendations for any of these awards are to be made by the division commander, who will forward his recommendations to the Commander-

in-Chief, A.E.F. These recommendations will be treated as strictly confidential both by the division commander and G.H.Q. This, however, does not prevent commanders from expressing, in orders or otherwise, their appreciation of meritorious conduct by officers or men in their commands.

The reason for secrecy is that, in case, the recommendation should be disapproved by G.H.Q., the man concerned would not even know he had been recommended for the award, whereas, if he were told of it beforehand, his disappointment would justly be bitter.

The division commander will, whenever circumstances permit, make personal investigation of each individual case of a man recommended for an award, and will report the fact if he makes such a personal inquiry. Recommendations for awards which are not approved will not be resubmitted.

In case recommendation is made for the award to more than one individual, the recommendations are to be placed and entered in the order of their award.

If any one recommended has already been awarded a decoration citation will be stated, if known.

Once the recommendation has been approved, the division commander, whose task by no means ends with the forwarding of the recommendation, will make arrangements for the ceremony of bestowing the awards.

Officers or soldiers who are reported prisoners of war are not to be recommended for award in recognition of acts of gallantry connected with their capture.

Presentation Ceremony

When practicable, the actual presentation of a Medal of Honor, a Distinguished Service Cross or the Distinguished Service Medal will be accompanied by a formal review.

The persons who receive the award will assemble on the right of the line and between the music and the first company. If practicable, at least one battalion will take part in the review. The division commander will receive the review and personally present the award.

After the division commander has completed the review of the troops (Par. 712, I.D.R.), the persons to be decorated will be marched parallel to and 15 paces in front of the line to a point opposite the reviewing officer. They will then change direct to the right and, accompanied by the colors, will advance in line to a point midway between the division commander and the troops.

The march will be conducted by the senior brigade commander. The band will play during the march. The colors, including the color guard, will follow at ten paces in center of the line of persons to be decorated and file in a corresponding position.

Then the brigade commander will advance toward the division commander and salute, reporting: "Sir, the persons to be decorated are present." The division commander will return the salute and will direct that the command be presented.

The brigade commander will then bring the command, including the persons to be decorated and the colors, to present arms. The music will then play "The Star Spangled Banner," or if only field music is present, "To the Colors" will be sounded. On the completion of the music, the brigade commander will bring the troops to order arms.

A staff officer of the division commander will read to the division commander the order announcing the awards. The division commander, accompanied by his staff, will then advance to the line of persons to be decorated and after making appropriate remarks will pin the decorations awarded on the left breast of each person.

Upon completion of this ceremony, he will direct the brigade commander to pass the troops in review and will return to the position of the reviewing officer. The persons who have been decorated will join the division commander and form in line on his left. The colors will go to the color company. The command will then be marched in review and dismissed.

In all formations, persons to be decorated will be formed in line in accordance with their rank from right to left.

RANK NOT LOST IN SIDE TRIPS TO HOSPITALS

Story of Non-Coms Broken Through Being Wounded Sad, But Untrue

Some one with a keen sense of humor has reported that non-commissioned officers, when once they had been restored to fighting trim by the base hospital experts, would then be shipped to the nearest replacement organization as privates.

According to this version of the replacement system, any non-com who was seriously enough wounded to be sent back to a base hospital would receive a nice wound chevron all right, but he would also be broken by way of reward. This mishap was not described as a penalty for being wounded, but simply as an unfortunate but inevitable consequence of the replacement system.

The only trouble with the story is that it is not true. It is true that when a soldier is admitted to a base hospital, he is automatically dropped from the rolls of his organization because it is impossible for any one to say just when he will be ready to go back again. But it is not true that he loses his rank in the process.

Foreseeing such a development of the system and to protect the non-com, G.H.Q. cabled to Washington this recommendation:—

Officers and soldiers admitted to hospital or missing will be transferred to the rolls of the replacement organization which they will join upon being evacuated from the hospital and from which they will be sent as replacements to combat and other organizations. Necessary at times, therefore, in receiving officers and soldiers from hospital and United States into replacement organizations, to have the replacement organizations over strength in officers, non-commissioned

NEW TINTED HATCORD BLOSSOMS IN A. E. F.

War Correspondents Will Wear Red and Green Insignia

You know, of course, who those guys are that wear Sam Browne belts—no, wait a minute, Captain; that isn't disrespectful to officers at all—those guys who wear Sam Browne belts, plain buttons, collars without insignia and have the Cornell armbands on their left arms. Often as not the carry came, too. Yes, you guessed it, they're war correspondents—that's what the "C" on their armbands stands for—correspondents. And now, added to their other fiery, verbal and otherwise, they've got their own particular colors to wear on their overseas caps.

Red and green they are—the red above the green. Appropriate? It's the latest word in appropriateness. For all the war correspondents over here are veterans, and widely read, and their widely-readness (the typewriter almost slipped and made it "wildly-red") has supplanted any vestige of greenness they may have had in times past when they were cubs and so—and so—oh, make your own pun about it.

Red and green piping it is, in little narrow stripes around the edges of the headpiece. It is so fancy and looks so well that it almost causes the correspondents to lay off writing stories about the overseas cap.

HUGE BROOKLYN DRYDOCK

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—A Brooklyn company is building a huge 33,000 ton drydock with a capacity able to take care of the world's largest ships.

This is only one instance of the enlargement of docking facilities in the port of New York, and of the expansion of the accommodations already available to care for the increased volume of traffic due to the war.

ANYBODY GOT A JOB?

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—The following notice stands a good show of appearing in the Baltimore papers:—

SITUATIONS WANTED—MALE MILLIONAIRE seeks position with reliable firm. Any kind of work. Best of references. Dan, Bradstreet, etc. Address Must-tail, P.O. Box 711.

For the Maryland compulsory work law has caught its first millionaire. He must get a job in a week or the courts will wish one on him.

Other rich idlers who have camouflaged themselves as Liberty Bond salesmen are panic stricken by the Government's decree that the excuse will no longer work.

CALL FOR MILKMAIDS GOES OUT IN STATES

Woman's Land Army Appeals for Overlaid Volunteers

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—The Woman's Land Army has sent out a hurry call for dairymaids.

It appears that too many cows about the United States threaten to go un-milked. So the dairymaids are urged to sign up and join up and draw up their milksteals and registration papers.

They won't be issued uniforms of Watteau dress, such as those in which poor Marie Antoinette used to play at dairymaids. Rather, they are warned beforehand that it's a job that calls not for silk stockings and high-heeled, gilt slippers, but for overlaid arabians.

Even with those limitations, it is expected that a large number of girls will enlist, forsaking the old occupation of extracting money from father for the fascinating new one of extracting lacteal fluid from the cow.

"DOUGHNUTS & PIE" AMERICA'S SLOGAN

Salvation Army Seeks Fund of \$2,000,000 to Aid Tummyaches

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—"Doughnuts and pie for ever there" is now the national cry. It is the slogan of the Salvation Army's drive for a fund of \$2,000,000.

New York has subscribed \$100,000 of its quarter million quota in the first few days of the campaign. Thoughtful men are shuddering at the probable condition of our Army after eating that two billion dollars' worth of pastry.

(Note by Editor.—Those thoughtful men had better stop shuddering and dig down.)

There is nothing that leads so perilous an existence in America just now as the dollar bill. (Dollar, equivalent to homicide cry. A.E.F. currency.—Dictionary.) It is impossible to carry a single dollar bill a single block in any direction between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It will be caught on the next corner by war savins stamps sellers. Most of the sellers are toothily pretty and attack in unison. The dollar gasps and is no more.

Speaking of dollars, New York has rushed its figure past \$12,000,000 in the new thrift campaign.

SUCCEEDS SENATOR STONE

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock, of Omaha, Neb., has been chosen chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations, to succeed the late Senator William Joel Stone of Missouri.

Senator Hitchcock has, on several important occasions, been the Administration's spokesman, notably during the conduct of the Armed Neutrality Bill and the War Resolution through the Senate a year ago.

WHEAT FORECAST THRILLS NATION; WEATHER HELPS

America and Allies to Profit from Tremendous Crop Now in Prospect

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] NEW YORK, May 16.—Prospects of a splendid wheat crop are thrilling all America. Government forecasts indicate that the yield of winter wheat will be 573,000,000 bushels, as against 418,000,000 last year. If the forecast makes good, this will be the third largest winter wheat crop ever harvested in this country. It means food—and the munitions of war—for America and her Allies.

Every one of the past few months has seen weather which has improved the condition of the crop, and with all caution it seems reasonable to say that every chance now favors a tremendous yield. Many experts predict confidently that the crop will be 600,000,000 bushels.

The country's wheat acreage has been enormously increased. The bumper crop of 1914 was raised on 400,000 acres less than this year's crop will be. The April improvement is the greatest on record.

The highest gain is in Kansas and Nebraska where the indicated crop will be 96,000,000 bushels, with every likelihood that good weather will make it a hundred million bushels. Recent rains apparently assure the crop's safety in these States.

Spring wheat conditions, too, are excellent with good rains over most of the spring wheat area. Newspaper reports state that our total wheat crop will be a billion bushels, and it must be admitted that a cold, sober analysis encourages the hope that the results will not fall far short of that figure, if at all.

MOTHER'S LETTER TO BE DELIVERED BY END OF MONTH

Sunday's Harvest of Home Messages Already on Way to States

HOW MANY? LET HUN GUESS

Pens and Pencils Kept Busy from Base Points to Front Line Trenches

FRENCH HELP US CELEBRATE

Mess Tin Serves as Dugout Desk, Anything Goes as Paper, But Everyone Writes

The Mother's Letter celebration—THIRTY STARS AND STRIPES plan for having every soldier write to his mother on Mother's Day—was an overwhelming success. It led to the greatest output of extremely first-class mail matter the A.E.F. has known. The flood of letters home broke all records in American history, for never before have so many Americans found themselves far from the soil of their native land.

We may not give here the exact number of Mothers' Letters written on May 12, for that would be giving a certain vastly interested party an exact idea of how many Yanks there are in France. You see, we all wrote.

But we can tell you that the volume of Mothers' Letters posted last Sunday and Monday (and they were still coming in as late as Wednesday) more than quadrupled the ordinary A.E.F. output for the first two days of the week.

Those letters, some of them eloquent and some of them awkward, but all of them tender and true, are now on their way home. According to the final estimate by John Clark, chief postmaster of the service in France, the greater part of them—90 per cent—will have been delivered, reread for the third time and shown to the lady next door before the end of May.

Mess Tin Cover for Desk

They were written on strange bits of paper, some of them, and in still stranger places. This boy from Vermont scribbled his in a dugout with the cover of his mess tin as a desk; that lanky Georgian scratched his painfully on the deck of a ship that rocked at anchor in a French port, while the Kansas City kid in the first surgical ward had to dictate his to the much affected sergeant in the next bed.

Some who wrote were doing something they had done faithfully every week since they first put on olive drab, others found in the printings of Mother's Day the reminder to write the letter they had been meaning to write these many, many weeks but which, thoughtless and engrossed in this new life of ours, they had been letting slide and slide. Some who had drifted far from home had their letters mailed in the Equator to measure the distance.

At one point a group of sailors was silent in the throes of arduous composition and close by a weather beaten gosh stood watching them grinchily. As he watched, his thoughts seemed to slip farther and farther from the post until they reached the other side of the world. A little later, some one saw him lounge over toward the table, begin a sheepish search for a sheet of paper and disappear. After an hour, he was back with his Mother's Letter, all ready for the censor.

First in Six Years

"It's the first time I've written her in six years," he said, just gruffly enough so no one should think he was getting soft. "I guess I won't let it go quite so long after this."

Many of the letters were written under difficulties—but they were written. At one point, a convoy docked at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Mother's Day, but there were all the ceremonies of medical inspection and what-not to be gone through with before the thousands of Yanks on board could put foot on land. The wireless, however, had told the approaching transports what celebration was in progress on shore and the first call through the megaphones was for more paper.

"We're all writing Mothers' Letters," was the explanation, and they were doing just that, an every inch of space the decks afforded. There was a great scramble then to secure up more paper, for in that base section all records had been broken before noon, by which time the orders were issued for Heaven's sake to tear sheets in half and write small.

Precious Supply of Paper

The newcomers who could not land in time to join in the celebration were not more inaccessible than the caution drivers in the French service who are here, there and every where, however. From their headquarters, however, one truck set forth bright and early Sunday morning, laden with writing paper, and as the driver would pass a brother camion on the way, he would hand out the precious supply.

Even scattered Americans in various regiments of the French army—Polos and Bohemians, too, fighting their people's fight under the tricolor—wrote their Mothers' Letters with the rest of