

FIRST A. E. F. FIGHTING CONTINGENT SAILED JUNE 14, 1917

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was enormously proud at being a part of the first contingent. Every one then in training or about to go in training over home seas with him...

Uphold Highest Traditions

"Every member of this division will be instructed in the responsibility of his position as a representative of the first unit of the Army of the United States to serve in Europe. He will be carefully impressed with the grave responsibility resting upon him to uphold the highest traditions of the Regular Army and to establish the morale for all subsequent organizations ordered to the front."

First Sight of Land

In those days, the sinister U-boat was a far more anxious question for the convoys than it is today and it was with relief that on the morning of June 25 the French coast was visible from the scarlet sails of the fishing craft and watched over head the welcoming, sheltering flight of a French airplane.

Next morning the Tenadores, the Saratoga, the Havana and the Pastores docked at the port of a somewhat cheerless city which most Americans had never even heard of a year ago today. It had been selected as the first of the American base ports while the first of the convoys was midway across the Atlantic, and the final sailing orders were given by wireless. It was

and friendly weather as sea-faring men are wont to encounter in a dozen years of ocean sailing. This was the first convoy, so to these soldiers fell the first experiments in boat-drills and submarine guard duty.

Last in Port on July 2

At intervals through the next few days, the other transports came over the horizon and into port so that the last of them was safe at its pier by July 2. The correspondents who crossed with the convoy and those who came down from Paris to meet the incoming ships were frantic because the censorship would not let them send home word of the safe arrival. But it was all right. Perhaps it was by way of revenge that they tried then and there to wish on the innocent Yanks the dreadful name of "Sammy." By some mishap, however, a message slipped past the guard, was published in London and flashed home to America, so that the whole world had the news.

The news of the arrival of the first contingent was published in every American newspaper while some of the ships were still at sea—while 7,000 of the soldiers were still within reach of the submarines.

The first contingent had some ground to break and some things to learn which have made the way easier for all of us who have followed. The business of debarkation and going into camp in France was a slow and painful process compared with the smoothness with which it operates today, when far larger bodies of troops move out of the ships and on their way across France as easily and quickly and unobtrusively as a party of traveling salesmen changing trains at Chicago. The great camp at Base Section No. 1, the roads leading to it, the means of transportation were not then what they later became. It was in the early days that the little port city gained the reputation which make it now serve the comedians of the Y.M.C.A. circuit as a joke-town to take the place of such old stand-bys as Brooklyn, Camden and Kansas City, Kansas.

The first transports were so stevedored and manifested that the all-essential

motor trucks were placed on the last and slowest of the boats. Thus the first contingent had to struggle along over muddy and insufficient roads for several days without their help. Then, too many a soldier and his equipment became separated in the loading so that a lot of them were unprepared to camp those first few days.

Guesses from 80,000 Up

The quartermaster was ready for them with 50,000 rations, but it was necessary for a good many of the men to use the boats as barracks for several days. They would march out to camp in the morning after first mess, work, exercise and drill there all day, and return to the docks in time for dinner at night. As the one-way road system was already in force there, they made the trip back to the boats along another thoroughfare.

This simplified the quartermaster's problems, but it confused the correspondents dreadfully. Some of them who were itching to know how many troops were in the first contingent, tried keeping a rough count of the number seen marching away from the docks each morning. When you watch an unending line of soldiers cross the back of the stage in a war-play back home, you may be shrewd enough to suspect that once they are out of sight, they race behind the back drop in order to reappear at the other side and march across again and again and again, but the French journalists watching the streets of the port had no reasons to suspect there were repeaters in our line of march, so they innocently arrived at a staggering total. There were many rough estimates circulated and published as to how many we had sent. And the lowest guess was 50,000.

Fine Health, Finer Spirits

The difficulties the first arrivals encountered were many, but they were in the first instance, the soldiers were in fine health and still finer spirits. Things rapidly became smoother and smoother for them and by July 15 the

fighting men of the first contingent were in their training area hard at work. Officers who left them the day they landed and who did not rejoin them until August hardly recognized the rookies of early June in the business-like soldiers of midsummer.

As they advanced from the port toward their final area, the enthusiasm of their reception, which had scarcely bowed them over at first, grew greater and greater, but it was only one demonstration—a battalion of Infantry—which tasted the greatest triumph of all, the unforgettable march through the streets of Paris on the Fourth of July.

Thundering Cheers Greet Rifles

It was Paris in holiday garb, a Paris all gay with sunshine and bunting and flowers. The officers rode on horseback, the men followed afoot. The cheers that greeted the first in-line—the sappers—were as nothing to the very thunder of welcome which greeted the first group with rifles over their shoulders.

As a military parade, it was not the snappiest thing ever staged, for there was no such thing as keeping a straight formation when all the girls of Paris were noosing you with chains of daisies, crowding you with poppies, thrusting roses into your belt; when the little children were breaking through the lines to kneel in the streets as the flag went by; when weather-beaten, battle-scarred poilus were scoring their place as spectators and insisting on walking along side.

Through scenes such as these, with every eye cheering and all the jubilant thousands catching from the passing band the melody and the spirit of "Dixie," the parade made its way from the Invalides to the Picpus cemetery, where, at a tomb which will ever be a shrine for American pilgrims, the Commander-in-Chief of the A.E.F. whispered the words that were in every one's heart that day—"Lafayette, nous voilà!"

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VERDUN BELLE, MARINE'S PAL, FINDS HER LOST CHILDREN

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desolated village, trundling their most cherished possessions in wheelbarrows and baby-carts, would cause an eddy in the traffic.

No Sign of Belle

Somewhere in this congestion and confusion, Belle was lost. In the morning there was no sign of her, and the young Marine did not know what to do. He begged a cup of milk from an old Frenchwoman, and with the eye-dropper from his kit he tried to feed the two pups. It did not work very well. Faintly, the veering wind brought down the valley from far ahead the sound of the cannon. Now he would be in the thick of it, and there was no Belle to care for the pups.

Two ambulances of a field hospital were passing in the unending caravan. A lieutenant who looked human was in the front seat of one of them, a sergeant beside him. The leatherneck ran up to them, blurted out his story, gazed at them in surprise and thrust the pups into their hands.

"Take good care of them," he said. "I don't suppose I'll ever see them again." And he was gone. A little later in the day, that field hospital was pitching its tents and setting up its kitchens and tables in a deserted farm. Amid all the hurry of preparation for the big job ahead, they found time to worry about those pups. The problem was food. Corned willy was tried and found wanting.

Food Problem Grows Vital Finally, the first sergeant bunted up a farm-bred private and the two of them spent that evening chasing four nervous and distrustful cows around a pasture, trying vainly to capture enough milk to provide subsistence for the new additions to the personnel.

Next morning the problem was still unsolved. But it was solved that evening. For that evening, a fresh contingent of Marines trooped by the farm and in their wake—tired, anxious, but undiscouraged—was Verdun Belle. Ten kilometers

back two days before, she had lost her master and, until she should find him again, she evidently had thought that any Marine was better than none.

The troops did not halt at the farm, but Belle did. At the gates she stopped dead in her tracks, drew in her jolting tongue, sniffed inquiringly the evening air and like a flash—a white streak along the drive—she raced to the distant tree where, on a pile of discarded dressings in the shade, the pups were sleeping.

Their Own Mess Call

All the corps men stopped work and stood around a marvelous sight. For the onlooker was such a family reunion as brings the heart. For the worried mess sergeant it was a great relief. For the pups it was a mess call, clear and unmistakable.

So, with renewed faith in her heart and only one worry left in her mind, Verdun Belle and her puppies settled down on the evacuation hospital, on from there to the base hospital, on and on. It was not very clear to anyone how another separation could be prevented. It was a perplexing question but they knew in their hearts they could safely leave the answer to some one else. They could leave it to Verdun Belle.

In a grove of trees beside the house, the tents of the personnel were pitched and the hospital was ready for the day. The range side by side. The wounded came one hour after hour in steady stream, and the boys of the hospital worked on them night and day. They could not possibly keep track of all the cases, but there was one who did. Always a mistress of the art of keeping out from under, for she quietly, Belle hung around and investigated each ambulance that turned in from the main road and backed up with its load of pain to the door of the receiving room.

A Case of Shell Shock

Then one evening they lifted out a young Marine, listless in the half stupor of shell shock. To the busy workers he was just Case Number Such-and-Such, but there was no need to tell any one

SINGLE REGIMENT TAKES 54 ORPHANS; TOTAL 261

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first sergeant. All ranks of ranks from all ranks of Yanks are capable of it. "We've been in France for months. We know the condition of the poor waifs whose fathers have made the supreme sacrifice. There is no need of pleading their cases."

Bright Buckeye Sunshine

By noon of the sixth day the "Reveille" was used to announce that enough francs had been gathered to introduce "sunshine—bright, cheery, substantial, buckeye sunshine—into the lives of 25 children," and six days later it proclaimed that the regiment "not only went over the top and took the first line trench, but penetrated far beyond the original objectives and still is gaining ground."

That "Company F, in a spirited dash," passed Company A, and became the "ace" of the regiment, and that "distinguished service honors went to Private Charles Shuman of Company A, who, single-handed, took an orphan."

Private Shuman, it is explained, was on K.P. and he was covered with soot after an argument with a rolling kitchen when the committee found him. "Make it a girl," he said, and contributed five 100-franc notes.

So the regiment becomes the "ace of aces" of the program and THE STARS AND STRIPES thanks Chaplain J. J. Halliday, who supervises the "Reveille"; Editor Wilkinson, Private L. F. Sratek, associate editor, and the contributors to the fund, on behalf of the 54 French youngsters to be tidied over the coming year of need, who, all their lives, will remember the coming of this regiment to France.

Not counting the 17 orphans pledged, these are the units of the regiment which have forwarded the money to complete their respective adoptions:

- Company A 2
Pvt. Charles Shuman 1
Officers Co. B 1
1st Platoon, Co. B 1
2nd Platoon, Co. B 1
3rd Platoon, Co. B 1
4th Platoon, Co. B 1
Co. C 1
Co. D 3
Co. E 2
Headquarters, Co. F 2
3rd Platoon, Co. F 1
Platoon, Co. F 2
Co. G 2
Co. H 2
Co. I 1
1st Platoon, Co. I 1
2nd Platoon, Co. I 1
3rd Platoon, Co. I 1
4th Platoon, Co. I 1
Co. L 1
Headquarters 3
Marching Gun Co. 2
Medical Detachment 1
Staff and Field Officers 1

HOW TO ADOPT AN ORPHAN

A company, detachment, or group of the A.E.F., agrees to adopt a child for a year, contributing 500 francs (\$87.72) for its support. The children will be either orphans, the children of French soldiers so seriously crippled that they cannot work, or refugees from the invaded districts, as specified by the adopting units.

The money will be sent to THE STARS AND STRIPES and be turned over to a special committee of the American Red Cross for disbursement. At least 250 francs will be paid upon adoption and the remainder within four months thereafter. Photographs and the history of each child will be sent to its adopting unit, which should be notified of the child's whereabouts and advised monthly of its progress. The Red Cross will determine the disposal of the child. It will be maintained in a French family or sent to a trade or agricultural school.

No restrictions are placed upon the methods by which money may be raised. Donations and suggestions regarding the children should be addressed: War Orphans Department, THE STARS AND STRIPES, G2, A.E.F., 1 Rue des Italiens, Paris, France.

California Heard From

Eleven other individuals and units sent in their requests for a total of 14 children, making 68 all told for the week; and fractional contributions were received as follows:

- George E. Voornhies, Jr., Santa Barbara, California 125 frs.
Mrs. H. F. Rathbun, New York 13 frs. 30 Co. D - Engrs. 50 frs.
Mr. Voornhies is the first contributor from the United States.
"Enclosed find draft for 125 francs as a 'starter' to adopt an orphan," he wrote. Am broke now, so will send 125 francs more after I get my income-tax paid (if I do) and the balance soon. Saw the copy of THE STARS AND STRIPES in Sunday's New York Tribune and am having it framed and hung in the country club."

Major J. W. Stillwell, of the General Staff, became a parrain on behalf of his children in the States. "Have just not hold of my first copy of THE STARS AND STRIPES," wrote "Southern Officer," and the story of

what you are doing for French war orphans is the best thing in it. I am a little short of funds at present, but am going to divide what I have and am enclosing \$50 of the good old kind of money as a first payment."

"OFFICER-R.S. CENTER!"

Officers who consider themselves out of luck on money due them from the Government either for pay or mileage, should write right away to the Post Disbursing Officer, H.Q. S.O.S., Bldg. 5, Room 133, A.P.O. 717, American E.F. Said disbursing officer had, at last report, 177 checks held because of insufficient addresses. The officers to whom those checks are due may get them by informing the disburser of their present addresses.

Also if any officers in the A.E.F. have lost any trunks or bedding rolls, they had better write to 1st Lieut. F. E. Wood, Officer in Charge, Lost Baggage Bureau, Transportation Department, A.P.O. 717. The number of bedding rolls which have been found, and for which delivery orders can be issued, is 339. The number of trunks awaiting their owners is 349.

Among the 339 bedding rolls and 349 trunks are a few belonging to Army Field Clerks, Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. men, and others working with the A.E.F.

To Members of the Printing Trades

Enlisted men of the American E.F. who can qualify as expert and thoroughly competent Linotype Operators, Linotype Machinists, Newspaper Pressmen, Stereotypers and Mailers are requested to register with this office. This information is desired for future use, subject to Commanders approval. Address:—

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The Naval Officer and the "Little Grey Books"

JUST prior to the War a brilliant young naval officer had had breakdown; his breakdown so complete that it looked as though his career were at an end. He was ordered an entire and prolonged rest—not only from professional duty but from every form of work. But War broke out, and his services—he was a clever expert—were promptly needed. He reported to the Pelman Institute and became a student of "the little grey books." Within a few months that officer had so distinguished himself by ability and zeal that he was promoted to an important command over the heads of senior officers! He generously gives the credit to Pelmanism. "This officer's experience is remarkable, but by no means unique in the Pelman records. Letters are constantly being received by the Pelman Institute from Army and Naval officers, business and professional men and women, telling of extraordinary advantages directly resulting from a few weeks' study of "the little grey books" in which the simple principles of Pelmanism are so interestingly expounded. Equally remarkable are the tributes from soldiers and sailors:— GENERAL:—I take the Pelman Course very seriously, as all soldiers who have made their profession a serious study must do. I am very deeply interested in the Course, and have been so from the very commencement. There is no doubt I have benefited considerably by it. I may add that I have felt the Course to be so good that I have induced several officers of the Brigade to take it up. FLYING CORPS OFFICER:—It has been a pleasure to me in increasing my efficiency in the particular work we carry on as officers in the R.F.C. It has also enabled me to partially or wholly forget minor ailments and worries, especially to conquer that form of nerves known as "wind up." LIEUT. COLONEL:—Very many thanks for the special Military Exercises. As a direct consequence of Lesson 2 I have got a step in rank which, though only temporary, is certainly one in the right direction. CAPTAIN:—My memory is immensely improved—so much so that I have just been able to accept a Staff appointment, which I could not have done before doing the Pelman Course. So popular is the Pelman System in the ranks of our officers and men coming back from the front on a few days' leave some straight from the train to the Pelman Institute to enroll for the Course and procure their duplicate of the Pelman student in the trenches. Is "Pelmanism" Worth While? Let any man of common-sense reflect upon the fact that nearly one hundred Admirals and Generals, as well as considerably over 25,000 other officers and men, are now Pelmanists. We are in these waste a moment of their scanty and hard-won leisure over the study of Pelmanism unless they were convinced by plain evidence and by the private testimony of brother officers that Pelmanism is unquestionably worth while? The extracts from letters published by the Pelman Institute during the past year or two constitute the most remarkable volume of evidence of its kind that has ever been made public. There is not a class or rank—from the highest to the humblest—from which there has not come voluntary evidence that the Pelman system—duly practised—NEVER FAILS TO PRODUCE ALL THE BENEFITS THAT ARE CLAIMED FOR IT. All Classes Benefit Clerks, typists, salesmen, tradesmen, and artisans are benefiting in the form of increased salaries and wages. Increases of 10 per cent and 200 per cent in salary are quite frequently reported in several cases 200 per cent is mentioned as the increase of salary due to Pelmanism. Professional men find that "Pelmanism" results not only in an immense economy of time and effort, but also in vastly more efficient work. It saves something of Pelmanism when members of such different professions as solicitors, doctors, barristers, clergymen, architects, journalists, accountants, musicians, and schoolmasters have all expressed their enthusiastic approval of the value of Pelmanism as a means of professional advancement. Members of Parliament (both Houses), and other public men find that "Pelmanism" has helped them to a high level in social and political life, famous novelists, actors, and artists, scientists, professors, and university graduates and tutors—Pelmanism has helped them to advance admirably among all of these. Even Royalty is represented—and by several enrolments! Wounded Officers "Pelmanism" There must be some thousands of wounded officers and men throughout the country who are studying "Pelmanism" whilst in hospital; and these speak of the "little grey books" with real affection, not only as a source of present interest and pleasure, but also as a definite assurance of a more certain future. Indeed, quite apart from any other advantage, the course is well worth ten times the amount of money simply on the stimulus it gives. The "little grey books" fill one with a new sense of power, a new and greater belief in Possibility. Here is a characteristic letter bearing on the point: it was written by a University man now in the Army. "The Course has prevented me from becoming slack and stagnating during my Army life—this is my most trusted danger. I may add, it incutecates a clean, thorough, courageous method of planning and doing a simple job, or a task suited to the English temper. I should prove moral salvation to many a business man. 'Success' too, would follow—but I consider this as secondary." Letters such as this, no less than those which speak of salaries doubled, positions and promotions gained, or other material advantages, make it clear that "Pelmanism" was justly fitted in declaring that "the work of the Pelman Institute is of national importance"; they also explain why such distinguished public men as Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Sir James Coxall, M.P., Mr. Geo. R. Sims, and others, have not hesitated to endorse the methods and principles of the Institute. There is no man or woman who has expressed dissatisfaction with the result of his or her dealings with the Pelman Institute. "Mind and Memory" (in which the Pelman Course is fully described, with the synopsis of the lessons) will be sent gratis and post free, together with a full reprint of Truth's famous Report and a form entitling readers of Stars and Stripes to the complete Pelman Course at the special rate of 10/-, on application to The Pelman Institute, 10, Abchurch Lane, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1.