

AMERICAN FRANCE

1—Chateau-Thierry

Written down by the soldiers of the A.E.F., one by one, these are appearing for the first time in the pages of American history...

Such a name is Chateau-Thierry. It was there that the German armies in the great thrust for Paris they began on May 27 first met the resistance of Yankee troops.

Chateau-Thierry is a little town on a hill. Past its foot flow the slow, untroubled waters of the Marne.

When, in the early days of June, 1918, men once more fought hand to hand in the narrow streets of Chateau-Thierry...

English archers took and held it in 1421, toward the close of the century of the Hundred Years' War.

Frenchmen had it in 1562, toward the close of the century of the French Wars of Religion.

Then—and not for the last time—the dwellers along the Marne saw an army of Germany march upon Paris.

A half century later, the Spaniards sacked it in the course of the terrible Wars of Religion.

It was in 1691 that the Spaniards fell upon Chateau-Thierry, but its greatest battle was fought in that desperate February of 1814 when England, Prussia, the German States, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Sweden and America, in a coalition alliance—joined hands against Napoleon.

Chateau-Thierry was taken and retaken in 1814. Just a hundred years later, its walls looked down upon the retreat of the enemy before the victors of the Marne.

Visiting there in the spring of this year, you would have heard Chateau-Thierry in a town set in a fair and peaceful countryside, proud of its sheep-crowded pastures and rich in its vines and cherry trees—a little town of 7,000 people, no larger than Rochester, Minn., or Red Bank, N.J.

And this town is a shrine for French pilgrims, not because of the battles fought in its streets, but because it was the home of the master of fables, La Fontaine.

La Fontaine at Chateau-Thierry The French of all ranks and ages love their poet of Chateau-Thierry.

ANGELS—JUST FROM AMERICA



SPRING DAYS UP AT THE FRONT

"Say," said an infantryman. "Do you want to hear about the worst piece of out-of-luck that ever happened in the A.E.F.?"

"Now he's reported missing."

An ancient French school house, deserted in the fight of the villagers, was taken over by the Americans as part of the headquarters of a field ambulance.

The interrupted lesson could be read upon the bulletin board by the Yankee wounded carried through and a Daudet among them could have woven a masterpiece from it.

"The free man obeys his conscience and the laws of his country."

And the phrase set before the pupils for their composition exercise that day—the date was written on the board, 29 May, 1918—was:

"Un jour de grand vent."

"The day of the big wind."

Don't carry anything in your gas mask bag that doesn't belong there. That isn't a general order, but the fruit of at least one man's experience.

Two Marines on the outskirts of Chateau-Thierry made a dash at a German machine gun that was coming into play on their bunch.

When one division moved up to a new headquarters it took along with it a sergeant in the Q.M.C. who believes in being as comfortable as the exigencies of war will permit.

Somebody else liked the idea and tried to bunk on the roof. But the lance wouldn't stand it. It threatened to collapse all over the sergeant, and after a council of war it was decided that the lance should be constructed on a one-man basis and ought to stay that way.

"It's very comfortable," the sergeant explains. "And if they ever shell the barn, here I am, all ready for 'em."

As lonesome as a guardhouse without a rat. As cheerful as a wounded captain going down to "instruct."

As futile as the major's attempts to speak French. As ignorant as a war news editor buck home.

As noisy as a barracks on payday night. Thus, one doughboy simply says to another, "No. 2."

Others will be published from time to time as occasion requires.

Why Take a Regiment? Buck No. 1: The regiment 's goin' to attack at dawn and get those woods east of the village.

If you are wise, you will say Colonel. If it is a lieutenant colonel, you're right, and if it's a major, it makes him feel good.

A batch of German prisoners was being marched along the road under convoy of a sergeant. They swung past a little audience of Yankees.

"Hello boys!" called one gleeful captive in regular English. And pointing to the line he added just as gleefully: "It's hell up there!"

A lean young infantryman hurried across France with his regiment, was lunged into a fight near Chateau-Thierry with scanty sleep and short rations.

A Marine confided to the surgeon who was dressing his wound that his company had, at one point, swarmed up to the German artillery and taken the guns.

Up at the front you hear *vin rouge* called by the nickname by which every *pillu* knows it. The word *pillu* is now the best Americanese.

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Why Take a Regiment? Buck No. 3: The regiment 's goin' to attack at dawn and get those woods east of the village.

ETIQUETTE HINTS FOR DOUGHBOYS

Questions Answered

By BRAN MASH

O.P.—Yes, you stand at attention and say "Sir" to a British regimental sergeant-major, but you do not salute him when passing on the street or road.

Y.P.—The seat on the Top's right is undoubtedly the seat of honor for your guest, but also the seat of danger; that is, unless the Top is a Sou'wayer.

G.L.M.—When borrowing someone else's putts for guard mount, be sure of course, to return them rolled in the original order, and not hindside to.

H.F.—No, you are not required to salute German officers when you meet them up front unexpectedly.

U.H.—No, it would not get you anywhere to give your division commander in the first place, he would probably be too busy to come himself, and would send some mere snip of a captain in his staff to represent him.

G.Q.—Yes, celluloid cuffs are distinctly out of place with the O.D. shirt. Besides, they have to be cleaned with spit, and when you're on a hike you're so dry you can't spit.

O.A.S.—Yes, it is quite a problem, this bracing of guys without service stripes and finding out how long they have been over here.

T.E.—No, never lend your gas mask to your captain. If he forgets to bring one up, he's S.O.L., and etiquette doesn't require that you smother on account of his thoughtlessness.

G.—If your shoes are so muddy that you can't make 'em click when you come on motion, just go through the clicking motions and look surprised when you don't hear the sound.

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represent him. In the second place, where in the name of time would you get the lawn?

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ASK FOR THEM! MANUAL FOR SOLDIERS IN FRANCE by G. RUFFIER (3 FRANCS) MANUAL FOR "WAR-WOMEN" IN FRANCE by G. RUFFIER (3 FRANCS)

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LIEUT.-COLONEL:—Very many thanks for the special Military Exercises. As a direct consequence of Lesson 2 I have been able to accept a staff appointment.

APPOINTMENT:—My memory is immensely improved—so much so that I have just been able to accept a staff appointment.

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"YES, THERE IS REST"

A Few New Verses

Air: "Yes, There is Rest" Of all the animals alive I'd rather be the bear;

Chorus: Yes, there is rest, yes, there is rest; In the Infan-tree— In the Infan-tree—YOU SAID IT!

Of all the fish that swim the lakes I'd rather be the pike;

Of all the barnyard fowls I know, The rooster is the best;

The General has his motor car, The Colonel has his horse;

The First Foot wears his silver bars, The Second Foot's are gold;

The Sergeant can report you for a gun, and I can report you for a gun; but if his own gun's dirty, why, The Sergeant will be bust—(I tell you).

SIZING HIM UP

"The 'dis-ornamenting' of non-coms by removing the chevrons from the left arm has been accomplished with no serious complications, but not without causing some slight consternation in certain quarters."

"On one occasion an old time Army sergeant who had finally arrived here after languishing in the States all winter and spring was seen intently observing a sergeant recently bereft of half his stripes."

"Say," he demanded, "what the devil kind of a soldier are you? You're a non-com on one side and a buck private on the other, but by the looks of that cap you've got on, I should say you're some kind of a sailor."

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USELESS QUESTIONS

For the sake of efficiency in the Army, it is suggested that hereafter all useless questions shall be mentioned only by number.

It is estimated that this will save enough force expended in unnecessary movements of the vocal cords each day to dig 181 miles of trench six feet deep, or transport 103 doughboys a month from New York to Liverpool.

Thus, one doughboy simply says to another, "No. 2." The proper answer being in each case, "I.S.K." abbreviated form of "I don't know." The more important useless questions in the A.E.F. follow:

- (1) Say, what day is this, anyway? (2) When are we going to get another mail? (3) How many troops do you suppose we've got in France? (4) Have you heard when we are going to get paid? (5) What the devil is the matter with them cooks? (6) Who d'ye s'pose designed that monkey-butt? (7) Seen anybody with my Saturday Evening Post? (8) How much do you owe the Government? (9) Do you know when we're going up the line? (10) How much longer do you think this thing'll last?

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