

AMERICA IN FRANCE

II—Picardy

Cantigny is an obscure old village less than an hour's walk from Montdidier. Though the walls of its chateau have looked down on many an invasion—in one century or another English, Spanish and German armies have fought through that countryside—and though it is set in a province rich in its memories of ancient France, Cantigny itself has found no great place in the pages of the French chronicles.

But its name is sure of a place in American history. For the village fell into the hands of the Germans during the great drive of March 21, and it was in recapturing it two months later that American troops made their first attack in force on a European battlefield.

Cantigny is in Picardy, the province which lay to the north of the lands of the Dukes of France—lay between Artois and Normandy and followed the waters of the Somme down to the sea. It was not until the end of the 15th century that the wily Louis XI added Picardy to the royal domain and so placed above the heart of France a stout bulwark that was destined to resist many an ugly and savage blow.

Picards Always Warriors

For Picardy—ardent Picardy, as the greatest of French historians has called it—has always been a battlefield and its people always warriors. The very towers and battlements of its peaceful convents give to its hillside the look of a country dotted with fortresses. Tradition says that the Picards owe their name to the pique, a long and wicked lance which was their favorite weapon.

France has had no greater fighters than the proud and gallant Picard captains. The Sires de Coucy, in whose arms that device one reads the boast: "Roi ne suis, ne prince, ne duc aussi, je suis le Sire de Coucy," and the crumbling remnants of whose chateau was vainly destroyed by the Germans in this war.

When Francis I raised his army to do battle with his foes in England and on the continent, one of his legions came from Picardy, and the first regiment of national infantry in France's history was the "Regiment de Picardie," created by Henry III in 1588.

Even in peace time the Picards fought. Nowhere else in France did the fight of the workers against all lordly injustice and oppression by the rich come so early. Nowhere else was the fight so hardy and so stubborn.

Some Famous Picards

From Picardy came Condorcet, the philosopher and writer, who with long interest studied the history of the new republic in America, and who died in prison by his own hand in the days of the Reign of Terror.

From Picardy came Calvin, the leader France gave to the Reformation.

From Picardy came Camille Desmoulins, whose passionate eloquence on that famous July Sunday in 1789, when he harangued the crowds from a table in the Palais Royal gardens, stirred the wrath which spilled the first blood of the French revolution, and which two days later led to the storming and capture of the Bastille.

From Picardy came Peter the Hermit, the strange, swartly little man who led the Penitents' Crusade, the first of the gallant expeditions which Christendom sent to rescue the Holy Sepulchre from the desecrating hands of the Turks.

Barefoot and unkempt, with long hair, he rode on his mule from village to village, appealing to the crowd in churches and market places, and gathering in his wake a horde of 30,000—a grotesque rabble of peasant men, women and children, beggars, cutthroats, ne'er-do-wells and adventurers, who straggled across Europe as far as Asia Minor, where the Turks cut what was left of them to pieces.

In the days to come, when sightseers from America make a pilgrimage to the streets of Cantigny, they will find it no more than a good afternoon's walk up the road to Amiens, where Peter the Hermit was born.

FREE ADVICE FOR LOVELORN LADS

By MISS INFORMATION Conducted for Suffering Doughboys Far Removed from Their Affinities. SAMPLE SUREFIRE LETTERS, No. 1 Copy, Fill in Blanks to Suit Yourself

France, July — Dear ———

Well, as I promised you when you came down to camp a good ——— ago. I am writing to you regularly, every ——— about the life of "this man's army," "over here," as the boys so staidly put it. Things have been pretty well straightened out now, and we have just taken over a long stretch of ——— from the ———

They are mighty fine soldiers, those ———, only they've got some awfully funny ways of putting things. For example, they say "———" when they mean "———" when they mean "———" when they mean "———" and so forth. But we get along fine with them, except that for the life of us we simply can't manage to think they ———

Not that we are doing very much of that sort of thing over here, because the Army rules are very strict and we get good warm ——— served to us ——— times a day to go with the ——— and ——— that form the greater part of our rations. Still, it isn't half as good as the ——— you used to make for me when I came around to see you on ——— evenings. And I have almost forgotten what your home-made tastes like. Sometimes, when I think of you, ——— seems very far away. ———

I wonder if you are going to ——— much these days, and who is taking you to them. I hope it isn't some ——— who could have joined but didn't, or some guy in a ——— proof job that is hollering from the sidelines. It's a terrible world, ain't it? ——— when you can't be in two places at once? But never mind; "———" as our ——— Allies say.

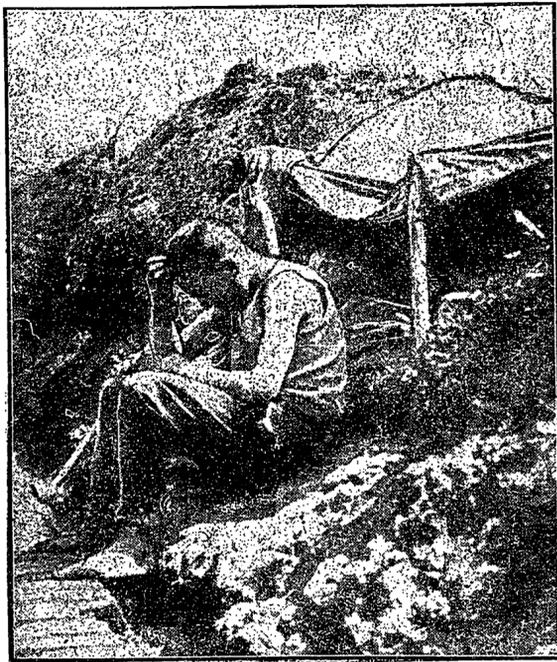
Well, give my best to your ———, and try to think a little of me if you can with all your ——— work on. And thank you again for those ——— you ——— ed for me; they've come in mighty handy. ——— As ever yours, ———

*Those three dots can mean anything; good stuff.

OLD AND NEW STYLE—NO. 2

In camp back home: Sir, Lieutenant Blank, U.S.R., reports to the Major for duty. Over here: Sir, I am under orders to report here for work. Farther north, over here: Well, here I am, sir!

REVEILLE IN THE LINE



Wondering what to put on next an all and grumpy anyway at having to get up for reveille at all—that's just about the way the American soldier is—even as he is now in the very front is that he isn't scratching his head just "There's a reason"—out, out.

d hating to have to put on anything at get up for reveille at all—that's just about the way the American soldier is—even as he is now in the very front is that he isn't scratching his head just "There's a reason"—out, out.

LITTLE LESSONS IN AMERICAN

A FREE COURSE WITH SUCCESS GUARANTEED AFTER TEN MINUTES' STUDY

AUTHOR'S NOTE.—Did you ever take one of the Y.M.C.A. courses in French, 13 lessons, 15 francs? After you have mastered the language and have learned all about elision, you know that egg is "uf," but three eggs are "trava zeff."

LESSON NO. 1.—Translate into English the following American:— "The louzeux time awanta t'office. I startzontops t'ese some stevedores billoa road. Wanta smoke warkitella while. He dropitz shovellensel "Abstusina, Abstusru!"

LESSON NO. 2.—Study the following translation of English into American:—

ENGLISH: Why do you not write to me, dear, and so let me know that you are steadfast in your plighted troth? Alas, I fear lest your affection is fixed on some one—more charming shall I say? It is long since a message has come from across the seas to console and comfort me. When you parted from these shores, you declared that not an evening would pass without a letter or a note from you to your devoted MADAME.

AMERICAN: Heey, kiddo, why doncha dropna littu muth'uh? Amcha gonnie me t'only honey bunch Jussumme adlem yours? Or have yah double-ead a dame with beilzon cussed "face thee" to muth'uh? If yuh'ed a can to muth, why dinya spill summinik ona soor-neer postul, huh? Before yuh'ull crossna mout, you sho' get enst thethin paper coummeur, no more reoloren billy dooz. Cammeest, I'll slectio stail fill oll' witeh. sin U. S. emobin. Gelwize, I'm witeh. MADAM.

LESSON NO. 3.—Elide the following English into American:— "All at once, when did you get your last pay? Come on, boys, it is time to get up. Count off. At rest. Let him up. Salute. Lights out."

LESSON NO. 4.—American can be written on a typewriter. Try this once on your Olivet:— "Nowzha time ferall good menta cumta t'adid their party."

LESSON NO. 5.—French can be translated directly into American:— "Comment allez-vous?" "How goes?" "Bonsour, mademoiselle." "Lo kind, wherzu goen?" "Combien?" "How much lat?" "Au revoir." "St'long." "Avez-vous?" "Got teny?"

LESSON NO. 6.—Technical terms in American are difficult for English-speaking people:— ENGLISH: Ford. AMERICAN: Camopner, roadhouse.

LESSON NO. 7.—In sports American is widely employed, although English is understood by many athletes if the American Expeditionary Forces. Take this lesson to a ball game and translate the phrases into English:— "Atta boy. He bingedit. Kill th'ump. C'mon in. Ah gwan, he's safe. Put Hoover. Heesey. Nocken. Gull. Swatit. Huns."

LESSON NO. 8.—Here we come to

IDENTIFICATION TAGS WILL BOTH BE ROUND

"Each the Size of a Silver Half Dollar," Says New G.O.

You have got to wear around your neck from now on, if you haven't already, two aluminum identification tags. The difference from the old ones will be—if there is a difference in your case—that both of them be round, "each the size of a silver half dollar," as a new general order puts it. The old square ones (or as nearly square as they could be cut in a hurry) are going to go by the board.

Every officer and enlisted man of the A.E.F. and every civilian attached thereto, will wear the two tags, the second suspended from the first by a short piece of string or tape. In the case of officers, the tags will be stamped with the name, rank, regiment, corps or department of the wearer and the letters "E.S." either in such form as "U.S. Infantry," or "U.S. Air Service." In case the officer is not a member of an organization, corps or department, his tags will be stamped simply with letters, "U.S.A."

OFFICIAL BOUNCER FOR SHOW UP FRONT

American Aviator Chases Away Hun Flyer Who Tries to Butt in

In an open-air theater right back of the lines, sheltered from the rude gaze of dead-head Boche spectators by a mantling wood, some five companies of the Infantry put on a real show the other day in honor of "the ladies, bless 'em." The Salvation Army sisters and the Y.M.C.A. women had done so much for the doughboys to take the curse off war that they felt they simply had to do something for them in return.

They put up a real stage, with Army blankets for curtains. They scaped up a piano from somewhere—the piano detail won't tell, but the instrument had a German name on it. And they drafted all the musical, comical, linguistic and otherwise talent in the five companies to make the show a success—the rag-time dancing from "Lady Evelyn," the Tula-Tula dancier (in military life, B company's second cook), the stringed quartet, and, if course, the regimental band. To top it off, they got the chaplain and the colonel to speak from the stage, and the colonel took advantage of the auspicious occasion to tell them how good they were.

Toward the end of the program they heard machine gun firing—just like rain outside a regular theater, or like the "thunder from without" in "King Lear." Looking up toward and through the tree tops, they saw an American plane diving into a Flying Dutchman. Whereupon the aviator was thereby christened the official bouncer for the open-air theater; and he did his bouncin' job well. The Boche put to flight, the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," and the audience of 1,500 rose and went to his stations.

After the vaudeville shows, the officers of the five companies entertained the seven Y.M. and Salvation Army women at a dinner that boasted a strawberry short-cake—real, and the first one ever seen at the front, according to report. Three of the officers are said to have walked 15 miles and back to collect the berries for it. But who wouldn't?

WHAT THE D STOOD FOR

LONDON, June 27.—A new play was found in the Army Headquarters' team when play was called in the game against the Northolt Air Service (A.E.F.) at Chelsea Saturday. After he had made a couple of humdinger catches, startled the grandstand with a few long throws, and got a few snubbing swats at bat, people began to ask one another, "Who is the tall newcomer?"

He wore a white uniform with a "D" on it. Some one learned that the "D" stood for Detroit. Then came the sensational news that the player was LaFille, star twirler for Hughie Jennings in 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913, and later with the Brooklyn Federals. LaFille is now an M.O.R.C. captain attached to the London base and will be seen in future games.

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