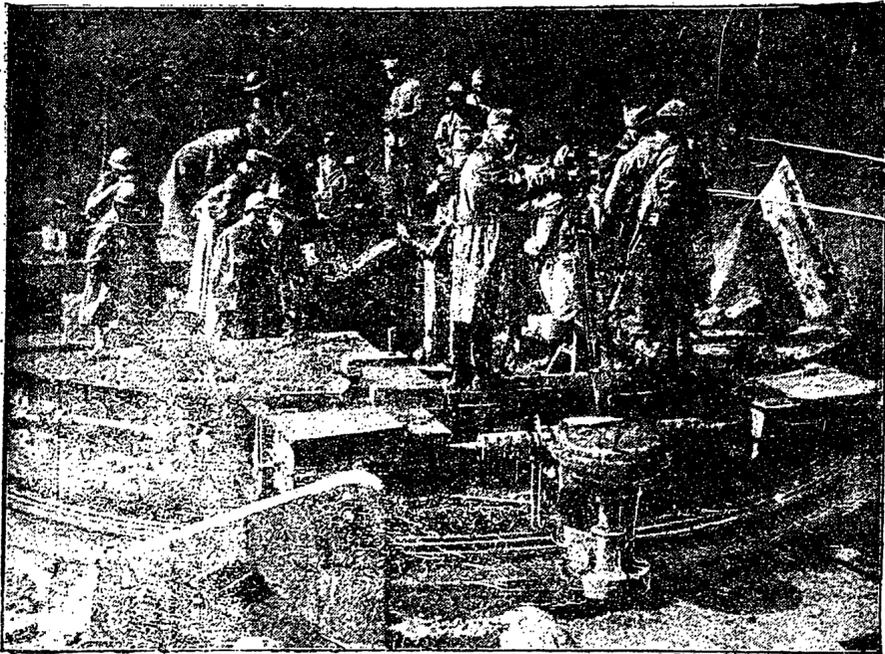


THE HUNS TRIED TO BLOW IT UP FIRST



Big gun base found in the wake of the German retreat—Their own dynamite only bent it a little at one point.

YANKEE CHAPLAIN FINDS FRONT LINE ONE GREAT CHURCH

Father Brady Hears Confession Within Range of Hun Machine Guns

BUNKS WITH PRESBYTERIAN

Non-Sectarian Shell Drives Both Catholic and Protestant to New Quarters

DANGEROUS TASK OF BURIAL

Beloved Padre Administers Last Rites to Friend and Foe Alike Near Chateau-Thierry

Father Brady, chaplain in one of the veteran regiments that have fought so hard in the wooded countryside between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry, reached the uttermost point of the American position.

There was to be an attack in the early hours of the next morning, and he had run and stumbled and crawled along the line to hear confession throughout his warrior back. Seamy old timers who had not so much as crossed the threshold of a church in years and years had bared their souls to him that night and sought off to the battle with brighter eyes and lighter hearts.

Now the lusty young priest was come to the final outpost, and, despite the warning protests of a lieutenant who spotted him, he half ran, half slipped down the slope to a hillside place from which, across a moonlit open space, he could see a new-made trench leading to a trench with a soldier peeping out of it. Father Brady called across to him in a hoarse whisper:

"Want to confess?"

The soldier nodded. Across the space that separated them the chaplain crawled, and a few minutes later he lay beside the trench, leading up to the stars, his head and the soldier's so close together that they could talk in whispers.

"Well, lad, get it off your chest. I'm listening."

"The confession followed. 'Ego to absolve.'"

Absolution in Strange Places

And as he crawled back to cover, Father Brady thought that never in all the days of his adventurous priesthood had he uttered the syllables of absolution in a stranger place under stranger circumstances.

Strange, too, are his altars, for on a recent Sunday you might have seen him setting his altar cloth on a shell-impounded tree and giving mass for the faithful on the battle's rim.

One day not long ago he dropped down for a breathing spell. He was dusty and tired, and his once matty uniform was mussed from having been slept in, and considerably the worse for occasional contacts with barbed wire. For nearly a month he had been snatching his sleep where he could, now in a shell-hole with his overcoat for a pillow, now under a roadside hedge, now in a barn.

He had been day and night with his regiment through the long period they had been in the midst of things, now hearing confession within range of the German machine guns, now administering the last rites at the aid station of giving that sacrament to the Catholics among the enemy wounded in the recovered woodland, now burying the dead in shell-torn fields in the hours of the night.

This is work from which many a man would shrink, but if the things his eyes had witnessed in this bloody summer oppressed his spirit you would never have guessed it from his buoyant words. Father on this day his mind seemed possessed only with wonder at the glory and the miracle which is humanity.

One Great Church

"Tis all one great church the front line is," said Father Brady. "In all Christendom, in all the rest of the world put together, you will not find so much unselfishness, so much Christian charity, so much loving kindness as you will find right here in the front line. Here, if anywhere in the world, we are brothers. We feel it. The man in the battle-line knows the two lads on either side of him are his brothers if ever he had any."

"Denomination? See? Nonsense!" he said. "That's pretty much forgotten here. They say poverty makes strange bedfellows. Faith, war makes strange bunkies, and 'tis me and my pal the Presbyterian minister have been sheltered out of the same quarters together."

surely, the lion and the lamb lie down together."

He chuckled reminiscently. "I was just thinking," he explained, "what a pothee they'd have made back home in the queer old days of peace if they'd caught me at a mistake I made the other night, when, in the confusion just before an attack, I heard the confession of one old sinner of a sergeant and had got half-way through before I found out he was a Presbyterian."

"Why, you're no Catholic," I told him.

Soul Felt None the Worse

"I know it, Padre," the fellow says to me, "but confession is good for the soul, and mine feels none the worse now I'll tell you."

Even if there were not work there that cried out for him, a chaplain must go to the very front with his regiment, and, except for the moments of actual combat, know all the dangers and privations the others know, or he will forfeit their confidence and fall miserably as a priest. Father Brady could not afford, in the crises of danger, to lose the trust he had built up through months of preparation, built up by such incidents as the one when the boys caught him blowing in on a club for them the \$2,000 which had been sent him from America to buy an automobile for himself, the affection that developed when they found he was a good boxer and wrestler, and could referee their fights better than anyone else.

The chaplain's most dangerous task is the nightly burial of the dead under shell-fire. It must be done in the open, for you cannot dig in the root-faced soil of the front.

Father Brady had to bury one night one of the boys who had gone out with him the night before to help him at the same task with others. He has received a call from battalion headquarters, which told that a man lay dead on the crest of a hill, and, making his way there through the face up in the moonlight to find that the time had come for him to lay away one of the dearest of his friends.

To Friend and Foe Alike

Father Brady gives the Last Sacrament to friend and foe alike, for all though he would say, "The back of my hand to you," to any able-bodied Hun that might run into him, it is a different matter when he goes among the wounded young Bavarians left on the field and gives them the last consolation of the Holy Church. Sometimes when he bends over them and they see the cross on his uniform they are so nearly spent that they cannot speak and can make their mute appeal only by groping for the rosary at their necks.

The German soldier received the last rites from Father Brady by the roadside, and a few hours later was grinning cheerfully at the chaplain, who encountered him near the aid station, where he was sitting up on his stretcher, banding out souvenirs to his captors, and relishing mightily a cigarette which one of them had stuck between his lips and lighted for him.

AMENDMENTS PASSED ON ARTICLES OF WAR

Execution of Sentence May Be Suspended if Proper Authority Directs

Death or honorable discharge of a soldier under suspended sentence will hereafter constitute a complete remission of any unexecuted or unremitted part of his sentence, according to a War Department order, amending the 52d and 53d Articles of War, which have been embodied in a new general order at G.H.Q.

The question of suspension of sentences—52d Article of War—is dealt with as follows:

"The authority competent to order the execution of a court martial may, at the time the sentence is approved, suspend, in whole or in part, the execution of any such sentence as does not extend to death, and may restore the man under sentence to duty during the suspension of execution.

Any sentence, or any part thereof, so suspended, may be reaffirmed, in whole or in part, except in the case of a person confined in the United States Disciplinary Barracks or branches, by the same officer who suspended the sentence, by his successor in office, or by any officer exercising appropriate court martial jurisdiction over the sentenced man's command.

The same authority may vacate the order of suspension at any time and order the execution of the sentence, or the part of sentence suspended.

The 53d Article of War is amended as follows:

"When a sentence of dishonorable discharge has not been suspended until the soldier's release from confinement, the execution or remission of any part of his sentence shall, if the soldier be confined in the United States Disciplinary Barracks, or any branch thereof, be directed by the Secretary of War.

CHOW THROUGH THE WHEAT (The Sergeant's Story)

"There's a job out there before us," said the Captain, kinder solemn.

"There's a crop out there to gather. Through the wheat fields just ahead. Through the wheat of Chateau-Thierry. That was soon to hold our column. There's a crop out there to gather."

"That was all the Captain said. (Oh, at dawn the wheat was yellow. But at night the wheat was red.)"

"There's a crop out there to gather—"

"And we felt contentment stealin' like a ghost from out the shadows of a lost, old-fashioned street. For the crop out there before us brought a kinder home-like feedin'. Though the zippin' German bullets started hissin' through the wheat. But it didn't seem to bother. As we slugged along the beat.

"There's snakes here," whooped a private as the bullets started hissin'. And we saw that Hun machine guns in the thicket formed our crop. So we started for the harvest. Where a bunch of them was missin'. But a bunch of them was hittin'. Where we hadn't time to stop. But we damned 'em to a finish. As we saw a bunkie drop.

So we gathered in the harvest. And we didn't leave one missin'. We had gathered crops before this. With us tough a job ahead. Through the wheat of Chateau-Thierry. With the German bullets hissin'. That was a crop out there to gather. That was all the Captain said. (Oh, at dawn the wheat was yellow. But at night the wheat was red.)

"We've heard ball players complain bitterly at having to wear an open face catcher's mask through an August double header. Wonder what choice words they'd have to spill over wearing a modern Army mask through five hours of attacks? Ask Louk Hank, he knows both. "They were two privates driving along through the wheat in the advance near Chateau-Thierry, German machine gun bullets, ripping through the wheat, sounded like hissing snakes. "I think there's snakes in this wheat," said one private as a bullet zipped fairly close.

"You THINK there are?" said the other private with proper scorn. "I KNOW they are, for one of 'em just bit me in the leg."

THE BUCK EXCLAIMS

I know just what a smell can do. If you are on the spot; I know when sheepish whistles through. It doesn't help a lot; But on the land or on the sea, Or in a raiding pinch, If they'd abolish revolve, This war would be a cinch.

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NO MINIMUM AGE AT ARMY SCHOOLS

Youth Not Now a Bar to Candidates for Commissions

BLACK STRIPE ON SLEEVE

Student Officers to Wear Special Insignia—Several Additions to Table

The minimum age limit has been eliminated for men receiving instruction for commissions at the Army Candidates' Schools. Heretofore the age limits have been not less than 21 nor more than 40 on the day of graduation.

The removal of the lower limit means that any member of the A.E.F., regardless of his youth, may win a commission, or at least go out after it, if he has shown the stuff.

Several additions have been made to the table of candidates allowed at the schools in a new G.O. No. 121. Infantry regiments, including the Marine Corps, will send 32 candidates per unit; Machine Gun Battalions, also including the Marine Corps, 6; Artillery regiments 4 per monthly group; Cavalry regiments 10; and Engineer regiments 9, all as heretofore.

From Division at Large

In addition there will be two candidates from a division at large, including artillery brigade headquarters, trench mortar battery and ammunition train, who will take the artillery course, and three from the division at large who will take the infantry course. Army artillery parks will send four men each, corps artillery parks two men each, and Army ammunition trains, trench mortar battalions and anti-aircraft battalions one man each.

G.I.Q. army, army corps and headquarters battalions or troops will send one per cent of their total enlisted personnel.

Candidates will wear a diagonal black stripe on the sleeves of the blouse and overcoat in the manner prescribed in the Uniform Regulations. War service and wound chevrons will be superimposed on the black stripe.

OFFICERS' FIELD RATIONS

Officers who are furnished rations with an organization during active operations in the field will make notation on their pay accounts of the number of rations drawn during the month covered by the pay accounts, according to G.O. 121. The Quartermaster who makes the payment will collect the amount thus due the Government. The value of the ration will be published from time to time by the Chief Quartermaster.

Private Muddypants: I thought this lugnut was coddle proof.

Corporal Dusblyhouse: It is. I've got the proof all over me.

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SIGNS OF THE SEASON

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Fubbins: What makes you think so?

Gubbins: Just got my issue of summer underwear today.

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