

# ENGINEERS' TASK NOT ENDED WHEN VESLE IS SPANNED

## River Is Made Passable for Democracy, If Not 100 Per Cent Safe

### DOUGHBOYS GROW ENVIOUS

#### Shovels Are Handier to Dig in With Than Mess Kit Lids—Variety the Watchword

The Vesle River has many stories to tell of the work of American Engineers in throwing bridges across the river and vanishing Infantry. The river is the Germans waited to block any advance, confident in the protection which the surrounding hills afforded their men and guns.

They had their artillery back of the hills and their snipers and machine gunners well hidden in the underbrush up the slope, yet even with these odds in their favor, they were unable to break up the daring work of the bridge builders, who daily faced snipers, machine guns and big shells in the execution of their work.

On one occasion an Engineer major, leading his battalion out beyond his Infantry, took four men ahead, and the four under heavy fire had trees cut to fall back and fourth across the river in parallel lines.

Just at this moment the German artillerymen laid down a heavy barrage back of the battalion to cut it off from any support, while the snipers and machine gunners more than doubled their fusillade. Yet against even these odds the major sent back the following message to his chief:

"We Will Do Our Best"

"Have located place for bridges. We are facing heavy machine gun fire on our front with heavy barrage at our back. We will do our best."

Thirty minutes later the bridges were laid, ready for the Infantry to cross. When the first of the small advance party crossed over, made its reconnaissance and then threw another tree back to complete the foundation for the first bridge. The return trip was even more dangerous than the first, but no one balked at the odds, and after the journey had been completed, the battalion was called upon to advance and take up the work ahead. It came down to the river's edge with unusual coolness and courage and went to work as if it were clearing some road 100 miles from any danger.

This single operation is one of many similar incidents. The sector to be covered by different Engineer detachments was a wide one, yet in no case did a detachment fail to accomplish its portion of the task.

### No Protection for Bridge Builders

A close study of this sector shows the terrific difficulties attending the bridge laying. Beyond the river, held by the Boche, the ground slopes upward to a high hill, affording excellent protection to the artillery. Up this slope there are innumerable brush heaps and small thickets giving good cover to snipers and machine gunners.

There was no protection for those throwing over the bridges, and they were forced to work in the open. Yet with snipers potting away at a fairly close range, the machine gunners pelting them from front and rear, and the big German shells, shrapnel, gas and high explosives popping all around, the Engineers got more than a few bridges across.

They covered their full sector sufficiently to handle all the Infantry available and needed for the work of storming the opposite slope. They plastered the Vesle with bridges over an extended stretch, to the great discouragement of Fritz and Heinie, who were confident that they had the way blocked against any advance and who had no idea that any Yankee Engineer contingent would be able to lay bridges under such unfavorable conditions.

The enemy blazed away with their crashing barrage and popped away with rifles and machine guns, but bridge after bridge went across until the Vesle has been made as "safe," at least "passable for Democracy."

### Appreciation—And Envy

There is at least one Infantry regiment that appreciates in full the great variety of work handled by the Engineers, and that also is filled with secret envy over the Engineers' additional equipment.

As this Infantry regiment began its first advance in the American onslaught against the Vesle, it noticed an Engineer regiment busily engaged in preparing and fixing the roads to facilitate the first push.

Later, this same Infantry regiment, held back further along for a short while by heavy fire, looked to its left and saw this same Engineer outfit acting as Infantry. But the Engineer outfit was not digging itself in with bayonet and mess kit as the doughboys were. It had perfectly good shovels along, part of its regular equipment, whatever the task.

"Look at those diggin' fools," remarked a doughboy with envious voice, as he and several of his mates saw the Engineer detachment quickly develop suitable cover with shovel and spade.

### Three Different Jobs

But the doughboys had something else to observe in the way of variety. Assisted by the Engineers, the advance was soon taken up again, and the Boche rushed back across the river.

Facing come this far, the Engineers had no thought of going off for the day. They had helped clear up the roads at the start, they had acted as Infantry and had helped in the advance, and now they went to work on a new job—that of putting bridges over the Vesle for the Infantry to use in a further advance. This advance was completed, and at last the doughboys left their Engineer compatriots behind with a far greater respect for their all around ability.

Later on, if they had returned, they might have seen the same engineers in a new role. Having spanned the Vesle, they returned to the spot where they had adopted Infantry tactics and began once more the work of rebuilding and refixing the road over which the Infantry and Artillery had just traveled. Road builders, Infantry, bridge builders, all in one day's work, shows that if "variety is the spice of life," the Engineers have spice enough to last a generation.

First Boob: It must be chilly in those Annetites' barracks in winter.  
Second Boob: Because they're full of chinks.

# PORTAGE BEYOND THE MARNE



## KING PINS MEDALS ON YANKEE HEROES OF JULY 4 BATTLE

Continued from Page 1

to stand in line to receive them. Some were still in a nearby hospital. The King visited their cots, and having awarded his decorations, shook hands with each as he expressed his admiration for their work under fire and his sympathy for their wounds.

As the King passed out of the building, one wounded buck private remarked to a nearby mate:

"He certainly is a fine old scout, a regular guy; but where's his crown?"

The medals awarded, troops from the American and British lines were reviewed by the King and his staff, this ceremony completing a historical precedent that no American present will ever forget.

Here are the official citations in all their telegraphic brevity:

2nd LT. HARRY VAGLIS, M.M.—While digging in at the final objective, came under fire from hostile machine gun on sunken road, 200 yards to right front. In company with Sgt. Frank A. Kojane, two Australian medical officers, captured ten, eight prisoners.

2nd LT. MICHAEL M. KOMOROWSKI, M.C.—Though suffering from a wound in arm received early in engagement, advanced with platoon until objective reached, where consolidated line, remained there until dug in, thereby displaying unusual gallantry, setting good example to men.

1st LT. FRANK E. SCHLAM, M.C.—Displayed remarkable coolness and gallantry during attack. Went over the top with Australian medical officer, established dressing station front of enemy line, dressing wounds under heavy shell fire, continuing his post until all wounded had been evacuated.

1st LT. ALBERT G. JEFFERSON, M.C.—Being severely wounded in breast, shoulder, by shell fire, continued with consolidated line, pushing forward until objective reached, remaining there until consolidation completed, his services no longer required, before returning to dressing station.

Pvt. CHRISTOPHER W. KESSE, M.M.—Displayed great gallantry, devotion to duty, in two successive attacks, with artillery fire. Two atrocious bearers working with him were killed. He impressed German prisoners to carry wounded to places of safety.

Sgt. JAMES E. KRUM, M.C.—Though severely wounded right arm beginning engagement, continued execution his duties as squad leader, going forward with his platoon, exhibiting great gallantry, setting fine example his men. After wounded pressed insisted upon returning platoon.

Rushed Machine Gun Corp. THOMAS J. FOLEY, D. C.M.—Enemy machine captured one out advanced posts by counter attack, first platoon of company was ordered restore position. Foley rushed hostile machine gun single-handed, bayoneted several of crew and standing astride gun kept remainder of detachment at bay until arrival reinforcements, when gun crew all killed or captured.

Corp. ANDREW C. SHABINGER, M.M.—Being severely wounded arm beginning engagement, remained in charge his squad throughout, performing duties, controlling men until mopped up when asked to be sent to aid station. Showed great gallantry, setting fine example to remainder men.

Corp. LESTER C. WHITSON, M.M.—Severely wounded shoulder, suffering loss blood, continued to lead squad to final position. Exhibited great gallantry, fine example balance men.

Corp. RAYMOND H. POWELL, M.M.—During counter attack gained possession of our advance posts which had to be captured before assault could be made on position he was holding in rear of post. Powell volunteered for this duty, led section to attack through violent shell fire, bombing enemy out of post and enabling line to advance.

Pvt. WILLIAM F. LANSKY, M.M.—Severely wounded right arm, shoulder beginning engagement, he continued carry Lewis gun, used it with good effect in assault village Hamel, exhibiting great gallantry and devoted duty.

2nd LT. HARRY SHELLY, D.C.M.—Displayed conspicuous gallantry during attack enemy's position. In company an Australian went out captured enemy sniping post, bringing back eight prisoners.

Corp. ALBERT C. PAINESEPP, D.C.M.—Single handed attacked German machine gun emplacement. Gun was turned on him. He tried to grasp it and upset it, but failed owing to being wounded in leg. Then bombed out gun crew emplacement, saved advancing troops from being captured.

Pvt. FRED E. WILKINS, M.M.—Exhibited conspicuous bravery in action. Bombed out machine gun position, captured gun which had been inflicting heavy casualties our troops.

Sgt. FRANK A. KOJANE, M.M.—After having dug in while subjected heavy machine gun fire enemy with officer, two Australians, rushed position, captured machine gun, eight prisoners.

Corp. JOHN DE SMIDT, D.C.M.—In afternoon his platoon being under heavy machine gun fire located gun with assistance an Australian, crept to position occupied by gun, seized it, forced crew to carry it to our lines.

Corp. H. ZYBURT, M.M.  
Pvt. J. SWERDLO, M.M.  
Sgt. A. FRIHARD, M.M.

### VILLARD SELLS "POST"

By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES, AMERICA, Aug. 15.—Oswald Garrison Villard, after 37 years' ownership, has sold the New York Evening Post to the American Trust Co. of N. Y., J. P. Morgan and Co.

# 449 MASCOTS NOW; MOTOR MECHANICS SEND 1500 FRANCS

## Ten More French War Orphans Find Parrains in A.E.F.

### SCORE PICKED FOR OREGON

#### Pictures and Stories of Children Adopted by Shipbuilders on Way to States

TAKEN THIS WEEK.

Co. 7, Motor Mechanics, S.C.	2
Capt. Chas. H. Bruenig	1
Lt. F. H. L. A.S.	1
Mrs. W. M. Lacy, Wellesley, Mass.	1
Aero Squadron	1
Officers of Base Hosp. No. 24	1
"For Johnnie Stalg"	1
1st Detch. Co. 1st A.A.A. Park	1
"Windy City Echo," — Engrs., N.Y.	1
Previously adopted	439
Total	449

Maybe it was because the A.E.F. was too busy polishing up after the strenuous work of helping get Fritz started toward home and preparing for a lot more of the same that there wasn't much done this week in the side job of smoothing the path of life of the French war orphans.

At any rate, after the banner week of August 9, when 34 fatherless children were assured of comfort for a year, there was a lull and the biggest number of new faces the orphan department could count in the A.E.F. family this week was ten.

The ten additions, however, came within one of boosting the size of the family to the 450 mark and raised the temperature a couple of degrees around that five hundredth milestone.

The week brought a new service into the fold of parrains, the Motor Mechanics, Company 7, —Motor Mechanics Regiment, Signal Corps, came in with enthusiasm, paying 1,500 francs for the adoption of the children for a year, to be taken on behalf of the members of the unit and one individually by Captain Charles H. Bruenig, the C.O.

### Corned Willie for One

The Air Service was heard from again for another three, two lieutenants taking one of the children for 500 francs "to buy corned willie," etc., for a Frenchman, in the name of his wife.

"We are happy to avail ourselves of the privilege of adding to the welfare and happiness of the children of France," wrote the Aero Squadron, which asked for a girl, "to be an added pleasure to us to contribute to her from time to time incidental amounts for some of the luxuries that are dear to every child's heart. We naturally expect our family to grow in number."

The *Windy City Echo*, the official publication of the Engineers, E.T., already well represented in the list of godfathers, sent in 500 francs for the adoption of another and announced that it had started a fund to care for still more.

The 20 French orphans who will be the mascots of the shipbuilders employed

by the Foundation Company of Portland, Ore., in the construction of 20 ships for the French government were selected this week and their photographs and histories started on the way to their far-away parrains.

The 20 ships are named after French heroes fallen in the war and a few of the historic cities of France. As mascots for the crews working on the ships named after cities, children from those cities have been selected. A child of Belfort, for instance, became the mascot of the men building the auxiliary power ship Belfort.

The circle of sentiment in the adoption of this score of children has thus been completed.

# 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 to 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 will be notified of the child. It will be maintained in 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 communications regarding the children should be addressed: War Orphans' Department, THE STARS AND STRIPES, G2, A.E.F., 1 Rue des Italiens, Paris, France.

Illustrated booklet mailed free on request.

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