

BOCHE "AT HOME" RUDELY SPOILED BY YANK GUNNERS

French Villages and German Occupants Blasted Clean Off Map

EVERY HOUSE IS HIT ONCE

But Perhaps the Captain Meant Twenty Times—And a Few More, Too

Through various towns and villages from Château-Thierry on beyond Seringes for many weeks past the German Army had made itself at home.

These various villages had a double appeal as old homesteads for the German hosts. To begin with, they are located in one of the most beautiful sections of France, where the Boche could watch the morning sun and the gray twilight swing out across valleys and hills not to be surpassed for color and sweep.

In the second place, these villages offered something more than the mere comforts of home. They offered shelter and safety from any hostile battery. So up to the last fortnight it had been the German custom, when under fire, to seek cover in the nearest village, knowing that the French, with their offensive not yet ready, naturally had no desire to shoot up and destroy their own homes and firesides.

Simple German Calculation The German has a most methodical mind. He is a great believer in habit and custom. Since no one had been shooting up the towns where he was claiming refuge from gunfire, he began to believe that no one ever would. It was all very simple. Here was a happy home and a sheltered harbor always within a jump or two when trouble started.

But now, from Château-Thierry on beyond, there is a line of battered, shattered and demolished French villages that day by day were cluttered with German dead. The destroyed towns tell a story of shattered dreams. The Boche had forgotten, in his calculations, that some day the French and Americans might desire to launch an offensive of their own, and when this moment arrived no move would be overlooked in driving the German back.

On to Next Village Whereupon, something happened. In place of desisting for the day, a line of Yankee batteries, all poised and primed, waited for the signal announcing that German detachments were concentrated in the town. The second this signal arrived, a mighty blast followed from every variety of gun at hand, big and little, and almost before the Boche knew that he had been double-crossed, his dead and dying were resting under shattered walls and battered stone.

While considerable disgust, according to prisoners, was expressed over the action of the Americans for their conduct in shelling a French town that had almost seemed like home to the Hun, American Artillery orienting officers were busily engaged in locating the exact co-ordinates of the second town for the next fusillade, while American guns were coming into position.

Boche Changes Plan After this, the Boche changed his plans slightly. He no longer attempted any concentration of men in the various villages along his retreat, but left rearguard parties with machine guns to wipe out any infantry advance. The machine gun detachments, met with the same fate. It was only when the infantry, with its way blasted ahead for several kilometers, rushed forward faster than the guns could travel over the wet, heavy roads that the Artillery was unable to continue the same assistance.

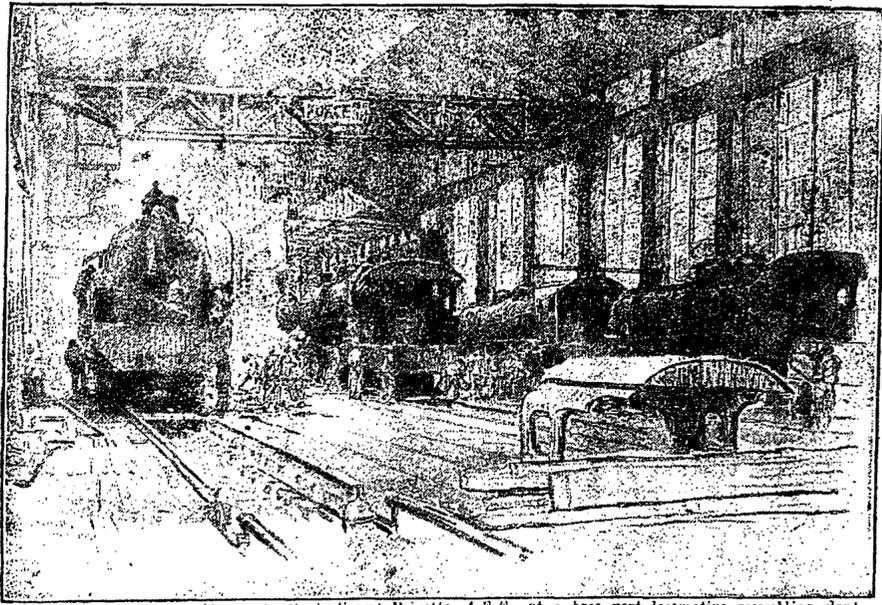
CHEVRONS BOSS BARS There are times when even a captain has to heed the command of a non-commissioned officer. In the Soissons region a young Minnesota man (the captain) and his company suffered other wounds, for the doctor found a total of 12.

He told the corporal to give him a cigarette and a pistol and to go on himself. "You're my captain, but this is one time I'm not going to do as you say," replied the corporal. Forthwith the sergeant off, carried more H.G.'s, got another round litter, and returned.

ORDNANCE MEN HELP OUT There is an Ordnance office not many miles from a certain hospital where, by some mischance, everybody does not smoke. But the non-smokers draw their tobacco ration just the same. A few days ago a little group from the office arrived at the hospital and distributed at least a hundred sacks of tobacco to as many patients.

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SIX A DAY IS THEIR JOB HERE



[Drawn by Capt. Ernest Peizotto, A.E.F., at a base port locomotive assembling plant.]

THREE HUN PRIVATES IN YANK HORSE DEAL

Stallion With Mean Eye Strikes Blow for Cause of Allies

POILU FIGURES IN BARGAIN And the Eight Chevaux Get Loaded Even if a Report Does Have to Be Made Out

If you were out in the wilderness of France all alone with eight stallions and three big buck privates of the German army and your task was to transport the stallions to a far distant supply depot with no one else to help you but three big Boches, what in this wide world would you do?

It happened the other day. It happened to a private of the A.E.F. This private is on the roster of a certain F.A. outfit who solemnly swear that their present duty is to take care of all the horses bought in France by and for the A.E.F. Many details go out daily to fetch in horses from all parts of France.

It so happened that the private in question was detailed to fetch into a certain depot via rail eight horses that had been brought the day before. Arriving at his destination, he sought out the team in which were hidden his eight chevrons. He discovered that they were all chevron and that one of them had a bad look in his left eye. He disregarded this, however, and soon was riding the one with the bad eye and leading the other seven.

Loading Problem Next The chevrons were yet to be loaded on a car. Just how he was to accomplish this alone the private knew not.

While he was wondering just how he should go about it, there came along the road a French buck private with three leading privates. This was quite a conglomeration of buck privates; there were enough of them to load on the chevrons, the private of the A.E.F. realized, and immediately he went into action.

Putting Fritz to Sleep The last cheval was just being loaded when something happened, old Fritz hauled off and planted his rear left foot in Fritz's eye and Fritz went to sleep. The American private and the remaining two Boches finished loading on Dad Eye, and they did it with caution, too, and then they buried Fritz.

After the American private had delivered his eight chevrons over to the proper authorities, he turned over his prisoners to the nearest M.P. and made out the following report: "Requisitioned three German prisoners from a French soldier to help me load eight horses. One got kicked. We buried him in France. Other two delivered to American M.P. at a French camp."

GOODBYE We're on our way to make them pay. The nigger for the dance. To starboard and to port. Our paint-patched convoys toss. Grim thunderbolts in rainbow garb. We jam a path across. Our guns are slugged and set. To smack the U-boats eye. God help the Hun that tries his luck— Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

CHINESE GUITAR NOW ON AGONY LIST Little Yellow Men Sing to Accompaniment of Tomato Can

Added to the list of indigenous and persistent A.E.F. instruments of musical torture—to the uke, the bazooka, the "bainjo," and the golden bugle—yet another: the Chinese guitar. It has made its appearance in nearly every camp in the S.O.S. area wherein Chinese laborers are employed.

Its construction is as fearful and wonderful as its sound. For its head it has an empty and somewhat cleaned-up tomato can. For its bridge it has a piece of planking. Its string seems to be of the veritable feline intestine, but the music it emits is hardly that of a feline.

Armed with one of these formidable contrivances, the heathen Chinese, on his side, goes wandering about the camp with a beatific smile on his moonlike face, extracting the two notes which the instrument is capable of producing and adding some weird notes of a native chant out of his own head. "Throw all your voice up into your nose, New England fashion, and then try to sing "Wah-ah-heeh-aaa, wah-ah-heeh-aaa" as long as your long-suffering companions will let you; then you will have some idea of the extent of the infliction of power of the Chinese guitar, coupled with the Chinese voice.

WHEN THE WOUNDED ARRIVE "The first thing they get," said the doctor, "is something to eat—good stuff, you know. Then they get a bath—have a hose turned on them. And then they go on the operating tables. Usually, the other brings up the meal, but we don't mind that. Neither do they."

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A.E.F. VILLAINS IN CAMERA MELODRAMA

Mess Sergeants Have First Call; Buck Private Is Hero, of Course

Equipped with a once excellent motion picture camera, a roll of light-proof film, a portable set that represents the old mill by midnight, and a temperament that makes her the victim in every production, a magazine-cover illustrator from the States has come to France to put on a new kind of show on the Y circuit.

It's been some time since we said goodbye to Estie Janis. The parting was abrupt. There was a big vacancy on the A.E.F. stage. Then—in walked Neysa McMein.

Neysa McMein does all those fancy magazine pictures, and gets more money in a year than two colonels. She knows, furthermore, how they stage and take photographs. So she came to the A.E.F. with the original illustrated cartoon, "Gertie, the Dirty Dimosur," and with this as a starter, is giving lessons in movie-posing, most recently in the Toul and Verdun sectors.

Gertie, it must be remembered, was a sort of pre-historic reptile, the ancestor of the modern lounge-lizard. A lot full of Yanks view her antics. They seem to be graceful like Gertie. Then Miss McMein summons her director, Miss Bully, her stock heroine, Mrs. Wilcox, and a couple of huskies put up the old mill. Volunteers are called for to turn the crank. Miss McMein vanquish until she sees all is lost, when she storms from the stage and gets a cup of chocolate.

The Y is ready to furnish amateur A.E.F. theatrical outfits with costumes, make-up, and other portable paraphernalia by special arrangement. Would-be thespians should see their local hut-about it.

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