

THIS IS THE WAY THE ENGINEERS DO IT



U.S. Army Official Photograph

GUNS AND GUN FOOD MOVE INTO BATTLE AS PIONEERS TOIL

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countered in four sleepless days and nights. In the afternoon he held the receiver of his telephone, which was conveniently set up in the front seat. Into the mouthpiece he was pouring his report, which was both a boast and a bitter complaint.

A broad, solid road all the way through, sir, and I'll be downed if the tracks of five divisions isn't hogging it already.

Job for the Pioneers

In the region just to his left, a road had opened up to three kilometers at the end of the first day. Down that road at sunrise it would have been impossible for a column of twos to have marched without casualties. The shell-holes were so many and so huge that a five-ton truck could not have stood level in the road, much less have driven.

Out of a hundred dugouts the pioneers came, carrying the stones with which those dugouts had been walled. Out of the stones they would build new thoroughfares, or with them mend and strengthen every hole through which the ground was slowly grinding. You can shove such stones under the crushing tractor wheels and watch them be ground to a powder that will defy even the steady wash and drain of autumn rain.

An Engineer captain, commanding some 2,000 men, worked on one main artery. He mopped his brow and blessed the God of Good Roads who had inspired the French to macadamize theirs. For only roads originally made of broken stone can be mended quickly with broken stone. For material, even if the neighboring ditches were not full of it, the villages all about are now nothing but broken stone, fit only for road-beds for the avenging armies.

These Engineers had marched up to the line under the booming guns the night before, carrying two huge bridges each strong enough to bear two lines of five-ton trucks. In some cases the Engineers worked from freshly developed aerial photographs which indicated the details of their job exactly, but even photographs snapped from the air the day before cannot predict the shell-holes and mine craters which will yawn in the earth at the eleventh hour of a retreat.

Not Without Excitement

One such crater—a dizzying hole 30 feet deep and 100 feet wide—split open the road to Varennes. The road was straightway wrenched around it and a new 24-foot stone boulevard leads up to Varennes and on beyond for the steeper supply of the troops that took the town and fought on ahead of it.

These roadmasters worked under shell-fire, worked night and day, night and day without sleep and without bridges over which to pass their work. They were quite void of excitement. The Engineer lieutenant, out prospecting with two of his men, who had the extreme pleasure of turning his revolver on an unobserved rearward machine gun and, eventually, of seeing the three gunners take flight over their hill towards Germany, was not the only one.

One knot of Pioneers were lustily swinging their picks when the whizz of machine gun bullets past their ears gave them pause. With an exultant war-whoop they threw away their picks and ran for cover, rushing for their rifles stacked handily by, dropped warily into the nearest shell holes, and opened fire on two lurking machine guns with such good effect that they wounded several of the lingering enemy, and, after a few moments' warm fighting, had the satisfaction of seeing six prisoners of their own talking marched off through the rain under guard. The guard was an Infantryman, but you may be sure the prisoners were labeled, "Taken by the Engineers."

Civilians also are permitted to apply for examination under stated conditions. All officers through whom examination papers pass are enjoined to take prompt action to avoid needless delays. The Army Service Corps, just organized, will consist of 1,500 officers and 100,000 men.

CHEMISTS BEATING GERMANY

Autumn Season at SAINT-CLOUD NEAR PARIS The Hotel Restaurant PAVILLON BLEU offers to Officers all Comforts at INCLUSIVE PENSION TERMS

SAVING WRAPPING PAPER

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Oct. 3.—The golf clubs won't get coal this winter. Instead they must heat up with the well-known burning language of all golfers, plus busted drivers.

Along other lines of conservation, retail stores have been ordered to conserve wrapping paper, and pretty soon shoppers will carry their purchases away in the altogether.

President Wilson did his share in the way of saving time and labor on the way from New York to Washington by holding the yarn on the John Alden plan for Mrs. Wilson to knit socks for soldiers.

GERMAN CLUB A HOSPITAL

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Oct. 3.—The New York Catholic War Fund has established a 200-bed hospital in the Bronx, as an auxiliary to Base Hospital No. 1.

The elaborate German club in Central Park South, New York, has been turned over by the board of governors to a small rental to the Red Cross. It will henceforth be known as Lafayette House, and will be used for convalescent soldiers and sailors.

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PLANES IN FIGHT AT VERY OUTSET OF ARGONNE PUSH

Boche Flyers Are Brought Down by the Dozen as Infantry Romps On

GREAT RACE FOR BALLOONS

Captain Climbs Out on Burning Plane and Hangs by Lift Wire During Descent

The first day of the Argonne battle was a great day for America's flying men. They brought down Boches by the dozen, and when a balloon started skyward it was a tussle to see who would get it first. The laurels were divided among several. One lieutenant brought down nine balloons during the first three days of the fight, and on the first day he brought down five enemy planes in five minutes.

The work of the observation planes was as important as that of the pursuit planes. Many a German battery wondered at the accuracy of the American guns; many an ammunition dump went up in smoke as the airmen directed the artillery fire.

Bullet Pierces Gas Tank

A captain and a lieutenant were flying at a high altitude when a stray bullet from the enemy lines pierced the gas tank, setting their plane on fire. The flames enveloped the pilot and the machine volplaned earthward. The captain climbed out of the flames onto the left wing and hung by the lift wire until he felt his feet touch the earth, then he released his hold on the wire and was hurled several yards, receiving a few minor bruises.

The machine turned over and was in flames, but that did not stop the observer from rescuing his pilot. He rushed into the flames and dragged the pilot unconscious from the burning machine, but the gas flames had done their work during the descent and the pilot died soon after.

A pilot lieutenant was engaged in contact work when his plane was hit by machine gun bullets and he was forced to land. He alighted inside the German lines, but was unaware of it until he saw several Boches come out of a wood toward him. His engine was still in motion, so he pulled open the throttle, rose again, barely passed over a clump of trees and landed 50 yards inside the American lines. Two hours after his forced landing he was again up in the air.

Lights in No Man's Land

Yet another lieutenant was attacked by five enemy planes and forced to light in No Man's Land. He landed safely, got under cover, and later made his way into the American lines, where he obtained a chaplain and two men and returned to aid a lieutenant who was also shot down in No Man's Land. The lieutenant was dead when they found him, and the little party stood by until the fallen aviator was buried. It was under fire continuously for over an hour.

One airman came down with his machine disabled. Owing to the fog screens how he thought he was in German territory. He smashed his machine against a barbed wire fence so that the enemy could not make ready use of it, and a few moments later learned that he had landed within the American lines. The ground on which he landed had belonged to the Boches an hour before.

Our air losses were very light compared with our victories. One group had 28 victories in one day without a single casualty.

ONE PACKAGE FOR EVERYONE IN A.E.F., CHRISTMAS PLAN

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diers and their coupons to the United States at the earliest possible moment. "8. The bulk of transportation which will be diverted from war purposes in shipping and distributing these packages is of such moment that the co-operation of every officer and soldier is requested to see, first, that every soldier gets one coupon; second, that he understands the necessary method of filling it out and dispatching it promptly; third, that the spirit of Christmas and fair play obtains so that but one coupon will be issued to each soldier."

FRATERNITIES MAY CLOSE

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Oct. 3.—The college fraternities of the country will probably reduce and perhaps wholly cease their activities for the duration of the war. Amherst College already has decided that all fraternity meetings shall cease after October, and the fraternity houses will probably close.

LIBRARIES EVEN FOR SMALLEST OF UNITS

A.L.A. Plan Will Care for Isolated Groups Who Want to Read

BOOKS FOR OUR PRISONERS

Technical Collections for Railway Engineers, Chemical Corps Workers and Others

Any unit of the A.E.F., however small, however isolated from the rest of the United States, now in France, however remote from the nearest center of civilization and cigarettes, may, none the less, have its own library. More than that, any individual soldier may have the privilege of reading any books he wants and has gumption enough to write for—provided the A.E.F. headquarters of the American Library Association has it, and the chances are at least even that it has.

The association is also preparing to send to strictly technical units—such as railway Engineers, Chemical Corps workers and the like—carefully selected little libraries, each containing a number of books dealing strictly and exclusively with the sort of work which a railroad man or a chemist is called upon to do in war as in peace, to perform. These standard technical libraries will be sent in addition to the customary mixture of history, general literature and fiction which now help to make barracks nights as enjoyable and fireside-like as barracks nights can well hope to be.

Plans for Prisoners

The association is planning to care not only for the American soldier in France. It has recently sent a shipment of 1,100 books into Germany for the use of American prisoners of war. More are to follow as fast as the natural difficulties attendant on forwarding supplies from enemy to enemy through neutral countries, in this case Switzerland—are met and overcome.

Cases of books—roughly one book for every two men in small units, though obviously that ratio cannot be maintained in a camp sheltering, say, 40,000 men—will be shipped to units far removed from the American news-stands, as many forestry and cement mill stations are, merely for the asking. The A.L.A. asks only that some one—it may be the captain, it may be the ranking back—be detailed to look after the books and act as librarian for his group. Later, if the soldier is already flooding A.L.A. headquarters (which are to be addressed at 10 rue de l'Élysée, Paris) with requests for hundreds of volumes of almost as many varieties.

Historics of France seem to head the list, with Curley's "French Revolution" probably the favorite in the race for Kless culture. There are requests for books on agriculture, law, architecture, and a thousand and one subjects not much more closely related to the war. Mathematics textbooks, all the way from arithmetics to works on differential calculus, are in demand, and an order is now being filled for a first book in Greek.

Two Ask About Bees

Recently two sweet-toothed doughboys in two different divisions each wrote for a work on bee culture. And the man who casually inquired for the whole of the Harvard Classics—Dr. Elliot's five feet of liberal education—must not be omitted from the list. The obstacles standing in the way of shipping books to our prisoners in Germany are not many, but what few there are are rather formidable. Books published since the war began are barred by Germany for obvious reasons, and for equally obvious reasons, so are any books, history or whatnot, casting reflections on Germany's past, present or future. No second-hand volumes are allowed, since a hard-working Boche censor insists that he hasn't the time to examine every leaf minutely for secret messages. Books going to Germany, therefore, have to be new books.

Magazines and newspapers are, of course, barred, though well-intentioned friends and relatives at home have fairly cluttered the Swiss-German border with periodical reading matter that may eventually find its way to the A.E.F.

Book to a Man Now

Books are now coming to the A.E.F. at the rate of 300,000 a month—about a book to a man among the new arrivals. The book-to-a-man principle, however, cannot be followed for the whole Army, since the men had a start of a million before the books began.

The association is planning to construct 15 library huts in as many A.E.F. centers next year if it can be accomplished. Two of these central libraries are already operating in two important S.O.S. cities.

The leave centers are being well cared for. The Savoie area alone has libraries totaling about 1,200 volumes. A big replacement camp has 3,000.

Hospital trains are now carrying genuine "circulating libraries" in case of books, mostly fiction, to a train, to ease the journey of the wounded from rail-head to base hospital.

COMMISSIONS FOR THOUSANDS OF MEN IN RANKS OF A.E.F.

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board may recommend that a candidate is fit for service in another branch, and should the candidate desire he will be permitted to apply for commission in the service the board recommends.

Blank forms for applicants are to be supplied by HQ, S.O.S. In case it is deemed obtaining these forms will cause unnecessary delay, applicants are permitted to forward through their intermediate commanders a letter in which the following information will be given: Full name, rank and service; present address; branch in which appointment is desired; date of birth; where born; citizen of United States, and if naturalized date and place; married or single; number of children; statement of all military service with dates and grades, including date of arrival for duty with A.E.F.; educational advantages, giving dates of attendance at various institutions, degrees attained, etc.; business experience, stating fully positions occupied, names of employers and dates; ability to speak, read or write any foreign language.

If You've Applied Before

In addition, the letter should state whether the applicant had ever made a previous application for a commission, and if so, when and where; whether applicant had appeared before examining board to determine fitness for commission, and if so, when, where, for what branch of service, and result of examination; general qualification for appointment. Two letters of recommendation as to character and fitness for position sought must be included, and the application must be signed and properly sworn to.

Only in exceptional cases will commissions be granted higher than that of second lieutenant.

Civilians also are permitted to apply for examination under stated conditions. All officers through whom examination papers pass are enjoined to take prompt action to avoid needless delays.

CHEMISTS BEATING GERMANY

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Oct. 2.—The big chemical show held in New York last week demonstrates the truly marvelous advances made by American science and industry under pressure. In particular, it showed our independence of German chemicals and the products of German chemical concerns.

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