

of adventure. And Grandpre, Long... will we tell the tale of the little town above the Aire which changed hands several times and finally settled down for good this week with Yanks in one end and Boches in the other.

In their approach to it, after clearing the Argonne Forest, the Americans were confronted by a bridgeless, unfordable river with a steady downpour of German shells balking all the efforts of the brave doughboys. Then, one afternoon at dusk, approaching the river from the southwest, the doughboys themselves found a tree that had been washed down the Aire and become moored for a time in the stream.

The Yanks were rushed to the spot. On these with more impatient soldiers swimming alongside, some 200 infantrymen passed out to the tree, then over to the other shore. They hid in a shadow on the southern outskirts of the front until dawn. The first German outposts encountered them gave one startled "Was das?" before they were silenced, and a few moments later Yanks were swarming into the town, routing the half-sleep enemy, catching them in bed and working great havoc before the German artillery took a hand.

Cloudburst of Shell Machine guns fired at them from the fine old chateau and also from a building which the enemy had marked with a huge red cross. They fired also from the old church steeple of Grandpre. The infantry told the Artillery about that position. It is no more.

American Artillery has been on one solid month fairly deluging the German area with such night and day cloudbursts of shell as the popular mind associates only with the launching of a great offensive. The reply from the German guns has been comparatively feeble. Indeed, it is an altogether agreeable fact that the vast majority of our wounds, perhaps 80 per cent, are from light machine gun and rifle fire, from which the men will recover quickly and be better soldiers for their experience.

There is fresh evidence that the enemy is suffering from a grave shortage of ammunition as the battle continues. Two great developments stand above all others in the week of continued Allied advance from October 16 to October 23. The Belgian coast has been cleared of the enemy. The great industrial area of northern France has been reoccupied.

The victory in western Flanders which drove the Germans from the naval bases of Ostend and Zeebrugge and lost to them the only segment of sea coast they had gained in four years brought with it the capture of Bruges, fifth city of Belgium, and saw the Allies approaching Ghent, which is larger than Bruges.

The extreme Allied left and the extreme German right now rest on the craggy front of Holland or rather more along it. An unconfirmed report from Amsterdam states that 15,000 Germans, unable to escape by the narrow corridor between Bruges and Holland fled over the little neutral country's boundaries and were interned.

The Week of Liberation The week which will go down in history as the week of Liberation of the Cities.

Most important is the redemption of the Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing cluster, the chief textile region in France, with a combined population of 1,500,000. Courtrai and Douai have also fallen. Tournai and Valenciennes were the next. The total population of the great industrial centers now won for France and Belgium is well over 6,000,000, not including the scores of towns and villages that lie between and about them.

The German reply to President Wilson's note protests against the charges of illegal conduct of the war; denies submarine atrocities, but adds that instructions have been sent to U-boat commanders to sink no more passenger ships; and offers an opportunity to arrange with Allied military leaders for the cessation of armistice and evacuation, and attempts to show that the Reichstag as now constituted really represents the will of the German people.

### Q.M. BRANCH HEADS HOLD CONVENTION, UNIFORMITY GOAL

Continued from Page 1 off his coat and go to work with no special or local instructions. He would know just where the Havana twofers were kept and where to look for the Pittsburgh stogies.

The new plan is designed to work about the same with the Q.M. depots. Commanding officers can change personnel can change, but the business will not. The whole staff might move out in a body and be supplanted by another, acquainted with the general plan, and there would be no confusion. Every body should know where the canned innos and the candles are kept without asking a question.

In addition to discussing the change of policy in the Q.M. and adopting the first big change, the Depot Quartermasters at the convention visited the various departments at Q.M. headquarters, including the huge salvage plant near by. The session ended in trade convention style—with a banquet.

The banquet was given by the visiting Depot Quartermasters in honor of Major General Rogers. It had been secretly arranged and came as a surprise to the new Quartermaster General of the Army.

### 20,000,000 BUY NEW LOAN BONDS; QUOTA IS PASSED

Continued from Page 1 thought was going some in the way of a popular loan.

We really reached 20 million subscribers, it means that we have knocked history out cold. For no such popular answer to a government's call has ever been recorded.

New York City girded its loins just before the last day and jumped from ninth to first place in the percentage race over night. The police force reached its 50 million quota at three p.m. of the last day and busted the city wide open with sirens.

## ORPHAN TOTAL 378; 500 LIMIT TAKEN OFF

Continued from Page 1 AND STRIPES announced its plan last week. The women of Centralia heard about it and forwarded money to refund the company. But the company didn't want any refund. It just forwarded the new amount and doubled the size of its family.

There were numberless other noteworthy adoptions. Co. A, Engineers, colored, became a paragon and expressed the sympathy which the colored troops feel for the bereft children of France, and the officers of Base Hospital 69 celebrated the completion of their first month's foreign service by adopting one.

Two Adoptions in Memoriam The memory of two soldiers who have died in the cause of Liberty was perpetuated in France by French orphans being selected in their name. One was Private J. D. Rankin, whose father is dead in action. The other was Sgt. Roy S. Butler, an English Sgt. Butler's sister is an Army nurse in France.

THE STARS AND STRIPES has received several queries regarding the plan. It is therefore repeated that the purpose of the plan is wholly to assist and preserve for France the children who will be most vitally needed in the days of reconstruction after the war, and that legal adoption, under French law, is practically impossible.

Also, we are still receiving requests for red headed children, twins and others that we can't fill. Red headed orphans are as elusive as ever, and twins, if obtainable, would be ruled out or half ruled out, we mean—by the plan. It is established that the contributions cover as much ground as possible, of adopting only one child in a family except in cases of exceptional need.

We are, we might say, the only firm doing business which guarantees the age, disposition and adaptability of children before delivery—and that ought to be about enough.

How to Adopt an Orphan Any company, platoon, detachment, office staff—in short, any unit or individual—can adopt a Christmas Gift War Orphan simply by contributing 500 francs for its support for one year. The money is sent to THE STARS AND STRIPES, and by it turned over to a special committee of the American Red Cross for disbursement. The Red Cross itself stands all expenses incurred in administering the War Orphan funds. Thus, every cent contributed to take care of a Christmas War Orphan is spent on the actual care and comfort of the child.

No restrictions are placed upon the methods by which money may be raised to adopt a Christmas Gift War Orphan. But the sooner it is raised, the better. Christmas is not very far off, and it is up to the A.E.F. to give itself a merry Christmas by seeing to it that at least 500 needy orphans of French soldiers

who have given their lives in defense of their country and the common principles for which both Frenchmen and Americans are fighting can look forward to a year filled not with anxiety, but with real Christmas happiness and good cheer.

This Week's Adoptions Send all communications regarding the Christmas Gift War Orphans to THE STARS AND STRIPES, 1 Rue des Italiens, Paris, France. Orphans were adopted this week as follows:

TAKEN THIS WEEK Table listing names of adopters and their addresses, including Co. B, 5th Art. Park, and various military units.

## YANK DIVISIONS BATTLE IN FOG

Continued from Page 1 valley of the Selle one of the strangest battles in which American soldiers in France have yet engaged.

In front of the doughboys a battalion of tanks—Americans at the steering wheels and Americans at the guns— nosed into the drizzling cloud and lumbered toward the enemy. In the fog they loomed large as locomotives, and their motors reared and chugged with a sound, intensified by the fog, terrifying above all other battle noises.

Then the inevitable happened. In the fog the tanks, the attacking doughboys and the Germans became mixed in one confused mass pushing back and forth on the lower slopes. All sense of direction was lost. The flare of guns lit the dense mist until the whole slope seemed aflame. Almost by the law of gravity prisoners began to filter to the edge of the river, to be gathered in by the fresh incoming wave of attackers.

One tank, scornful to use a bridge for such a stream, plunged into the Selle at a ford near St. Martin Riviere, walled across and started ahead. It could be heard thudding on its guns rattling ceaselessly. Engineers laying down a bridge where the tank crossed had just started their work when they were astonished by a dozen Germans appearing, specter-like, with their hands held up. They shouted their surrender when the engineers dropped the planks and grabbed for their rifles.

On Toward the Slope The confusion of the blind battle ended with the clearing of the fog, and the Americans pressed on toward the slope.

They kept on in spite of machine gun fire which met them from such strongholds at l'Arbe de Guise, a knoll wooded and banked with redoubts. The advance was steady on the whole front. At nightfall the whole ridge was in American hands, and in Arbe Guernon, a crossroads village at the center and farthest point forward of the American front, a tank was being used as an outpost.

Another instance of the speed of the tank advance was furnished by a captured German marine officer. He had left his machine gun command behind the ridge to go to a telephone post. Returning half an hour later, he was amazed to find his command, prisoners and himself squarely in front of the guns of an American tank which had settled down for a rest after cleaning out a machine gun nest.

During the afternoon American planes bombed and raked with machine gun fire the advanced line of a German counter attack, launched to recapture the northern part of the ridge.

In this one day's work the Americans gathered in 1,000 prisoners. Among

them were many from a German naval division which had been thrown into the front opposite the Americans in the hope of checking the steady advance. The impetus of this battle of October 17 was held for two more days, and nightfall of last Saturday found the Americans in front of Cattillon, five kilometers ahead of their starting place on the Selle—37 kilometers from the place where they had broken the Hindenburg line two weeks before. The prisoners taken in those two weeks total more than 4,500, including almost 100 officers.

In recognition of the work of the Americans, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British Armies, has sent to the commander of the Second American Army corps, with the Fourth British Army, the following message:

I wish to express to you personally and to all the officers and men serving under your command my appreciation of the very valuable and gallant services rendered by you throughout the Fourth British Army. Called upon to attack positions of great strength held by a determined enemy, all ranks of the 27th and 30th American Divisions under your command displayed an energy, courage and determination in attack which proved irresistible.

SWEDISH CLUB FORMED American officers of Swedish origin will find at 58 bis Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, Paris, a Swedish club where they will be welcome without paying any entrance fee. This club furnishes good meals at a very low price, and has a file of Swedish and other newspapers.

Officers desiring further details of the club's operation and facilities should communicate with the club's vice president, A. H. Nordin, 37 Boulevard Haussmann. The Swedish colony in Paris, under the leadership of the Swedish Minister to France, is anxious to be of the utmost possible assistance to American soldiers.

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## ARGONNE HILLS FALL IN CONTINUED ADVANCE

Continued from Page 1 dense, clinging fog, approached the foot of Hill 272.

Desperate Business Ahead It was then 10 o'clock. The plan was to form at the foot of the hill, and charge up the steep slope that afternoon at 2—a desperate business, but there the hill was and there on the top was a German garrison so placed that its close-packed machine guns could rake any troops attacking. Lieutenant Behndt's company was the first to reach its position at the foot, and it seemed a pity to wait there when any minute the rising wind might shift the protecting fog. The lieutenant was all for going on and up at once.

"I'm going up that damned hill," he told the major, a faint German accent reappearing in his speech under the stress of the excitement, "and when I get there, I'll stay."

Then, up the steep, narrow path, Lieutenant Behndt and a few men vanished. Following went the whole platoon, quietly, single file, rifle in hand, each man to be swallowed up in the fog.

They reached the top and the first of them put two machine guns out of business. That gave them a foothold. They widened it. Soon the whole platoon was operating on the crest, their rifles firing steadily. Now, and again the mist would lift a little, and anxious watchers straining their eyes through their field glasses from some distant outpost, could see lean, unmistakable Yankees standing up in the underbrush, aiming coolly like hunters stalking game in the woods back home.

Battalion in Possession Steadily the cleared space widened. Soon it was big enough for a company. The company came up. Thus grew and grew the American colony on that long plateau more than a kilometer long—and by noon the battalion was in possession.

It would be almost true to say that Hill 272 was taken by Lieutenant Behndt, but he must and will divide the trophy with Sergeant Ansley Smith, for Sergeant Smith, springing suddenly to command of another company, heard what Lieutenant Behndt was doing, and he changed plan and went forward asking for further instructions or making any comment on the job, gathered his men behind him, went silently up the western end of the hill and there worked out the same tactics that were in progress toward the east.

How big was the job can best be guessed from the fact that 550 prisoners were taken on that hill top, together with 300 machine guns, of which more than half were captured in operation. Not all the prisoners were checked back at once, for the Americans rushed hurriedly on. By 1:30 that afternoon the first battalion was using the crest as the jumping off place for a further advance that carried them a kilometer to the north.

A Groggy Pied Piper Back from that further line a lieutenant came, looking groggily for a first-aid station. A piece of shrapnel had torn its way through his helmet and once inside, had spun around and around without so much as scratching his skin or cutting his hair. But it had given him a bit of a start and he wanted a rest. Yet all along the route, emerging from scores of little hidden dugouts, scared Germans had come and surrendered to him, gathering behind him in a dejected caravan like the children of Hamelin behind the Pied Piper.

By the time he was back on the crest of Hill 272 they numbered 67, and there a German rushed forward, impressive with the important tidings that deep in the deepest dugout of money to the lieu-

tenant colonel commanding the regiment that had defended the hill was waiting for some one to come down and be surrendered to.

"Any one who wants to be my prisoner this day has got to come to me." Thus said the weary lieutenant as he limped on his way, and so the lieutenant colonel stayed hungry in his dugout and was obliged to surrender next morning to two privates passing by on their way for water.

Capture of Hill 288 Hill 288, which rises northwest of Romagne, under the very apex of the Kriemhilde Stellung, was captured on October 14. Its capture is part of the record of one of our great regiments, a peculiarly efficient and destructive regiment which came into glory on the Ourcq.

Early in the morning of the 14th it had the hill completely surrounded. On the top as the Americans started up with rifles, automatics and Stokes mortars, was a heavily armed German garrison of 1,800. At noon, it was an American hill. Of the 1,800 Germans, not one had escaped. The prisoners numbered 101.

The fighting in Argonne has been like that.

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WHEN YOU GET THAT LEAVE Under General Orders No. 6 and 38, Enlisted Men in the American E.F. may go to leave areas for 7 days, with board and lodging paid by the Army. The three areas now open are: SAVOIE—French Alps, lakes, etc. Center: Aix-les-Bains. BRITANNY—Sea Coast. Centers: St. Malo, Dinard, Paramo. AUVERGNE—Mountain Section of Interior France. Centers: La Bourboule and Mont Dor.

Entertainment provided by Y.M.C.A. Other leave areas will be opened soon. Accommodations secured by application through C.O.'s of units to P.M.G., H.Q., S.O.S.

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