

294 WAR ORPHANS TAKEN BY A.E.F. IN BANNER WEEK OF CAMPAIGN

Total of Youngsters Placed Under Yanks' Wings Reaches 1,670

ANTI-AIRCRAFT AIMS HIGH

S.O.S., Air Service and Field Artillery Simply Pour Out Francs for the Cause

Surpassing all soldier precedent for generous and spontaneous giving, the A.E.F. this week adopted 294 fatherless little children in THE STARS AND STRIPES Christmas Gift War Orphan campaign has gone over the 1,000 mark—156 over. The A.E.F. has more than doubled our rate made on September 27, when we announced a group of 500 French war orphans listed and ready for Christmas gift adoption. That 500 went several weeks ago. Another 500 listed, investigated and photographed as quickly as possible, is gone. Since September 27 the American soldiers in France have become godfathers to 1,166 war-stricken youngsters, and the original opening of the War Orphan Department of THE STARS AND STRIPES last summer they have adopted 1,670 children and assured them of a home and all that goes with it for a full year.

This is a brief sum-up of business in the Orphan Department to date. The Red Cross committee, upon which falls the detailed work of getting the children and assigning them to adopters, is confronted now with almost as many requests for children as it can fill by Christmas, with indications that the next fortnight will see even larger orders coming. This unexpected response and the signing of the armistice have made necessary two important decisions.

Adoptions End December 16

First, the receiving of new adoptions by THE STARS AND STRIPES will be terminated at noon on December 16. All requests received by that date will be filled—if not by Christmas, as soon afterwards as possible. But all received after that date will be devoted to second year adoptions. That is, they will be used to provide for children already in the A.E.F. family whose present income from their O.D. payrolls will cease next summer and who will become orphans if made become objects of charity then.

Second, a certain number of new adoptions—several hundred, probably, taken from the contributions of the S.O.S., if permission is gained—will be devoted exclusively to the adoption of children in the recently freed departments of France.

The condition of tens of thousands of children in the territory occupied by the Germans for four years is reported as desperate. There is little food, little clothing, and they are without money. The Red Cross is preparing to list the most urgently needy of these children and will complete the work as soon as the French civil government in this territory is again functioning and can co-operate.

It is likely that this cannot be accomplished by Christmas, but it will be done as soon afterwards as possible, and parvins of this class of children will have the satisfaction of knowing that, even if their adoption was not completed by Christmas, it went, within a short while thereafter, to a worthy cause as can be imagined.

Anti-Aircraft Take 87

The great influx of adoptions this week was the result of several campaigns which are being conducted by various departments of the A.E.F.—the S. O. S., the Air Service, the Anti-Aircraft Service, and others. The whole Army, apparently, has got its shoulder to the Christmas Gift War Orphan wheel and is co-operating generously and in so many ways that they cannot be extolled, or even enumerated, in an eight-page weekly newspaper.

The Anti-Aircraft Service contributed 86 adoptions to the list—87, counting the personal adoption of one child by two A.A. officers. Quietly, the A.A. men have been gathering orphan francs for several weeks, following an appeal from their commanding officer, Col. F. R. Hopkins, and Chaplain H. R. Griffin.

Chaplain Griffin sent out a circular letter to the various A.A. batteries urging them to help the orphan movement. He calculated that they should take 20 children. Forty-three thousand francs, for 36 children, was the response. One battery telegraphed, "Taking one for every Boche we have shot down; give us four." "Plan eagerly accepted. Had the necessary fund for baby in 10 minutes—more following," wired another. One man drew 96 francs from the paymaster. He gave 50 of it to the orphan fund and "I used to be an orphan myself and I know how it feels," he said.

A captain offered to double the biggest subscription in his company. Five men pooled 125 francs. He came through.

Yankee Pie for Orphans

Five batteries of 90 men each adopted seven children. It means more than an average of 40 francs per man. The contribution of 43,000 francs means more than 14 francs each from the 3,000 men who contributed.

To commemorate the adoption of their orphans, the A.A. men held open house at their headquarters, Fort de Stains, near Paris, last Sunday. Three thousand men were present and had, among their guests, 100 Y.M.C.A. and Red Cross girls and a score of orphans in charge of Miss Perrin of the Red Cross War Orphan committee.

There was pie—real old United States apple pie—for all the orphans and the other guests, there was an entertainment in the Y.M.C.A. hut by the Jambon troupe of the A.E.F. and a song service and sermon at 7 o'clock in the evening. It was in charge of the men who had worked out the orphan adoption campaign in the A. Service, Chaplains Griffin, C. H. L. Ford and H. H. Blanchard, Dr. F. W. Brown, Y.M.C.A., and Lieutenant Mann. Col. Hopkins and Col. H. A. Schwabe, C.O. of the A.A.S. School, were speakers at the afternoon entertainment. Both praised the generosity of their command in the matter of orphans and Col. Hopkins told something of the remarkable record that the American A.A. Service had made at the front.

Air Service Going Strong

The Anti-Aircraft Service's nearest rival on this week's list was the Air Service. It was a sort of a "You may sail high, but we'll shoot higher" with the A.A.S. men, and the altitude attained by the A.A.S. is just an indication as to how high the Air Service flew.

ORPHAN CAMPAIGN CLOSES DEC. 16

The Christmas Gift War Orphan campaign of THE STARS AND STRIPES will close on Monday, December 16, at noon. This decision has become necessary, in view of the overwhelmingly generous response of the A.E.F.—not because of any dearth of orphans, but because of our physical inability to handle more adoptions before Christmas, the original date of termination.

All requests for orphan mascots received in this office by noon of December 16 will be filled, if not by Christmas, as soon afterwards as possible, with the exception of a certain number which will be devoted to, and, if necessary, held for, the benefit of children in the recently freed territories of France whose need is desperate.

Regarding this great response of the A.E.F. to our appeal on behalf of the children of France, we can only say that we are proud to be the mediary for such expression and that, while realizing our inability to do credit to the wonderful work, or even to chronicle it as it should be, we cannot refrain from conveying, not on our behalf, but on the children's, a preliminary thanks which they will express themselves, a thousand times over, now and in future years.

No less than two score children were adopted by the Air Service, no less than two score will be made comfortable for a year by the aviators and the ground men for the coming year. Which is all the more remarkable in view of the generous number of adoptions which the Air Service had previously made.

All through the Air Service an orphan campaign is under way. Various units and various centers have assessed themselves so many children and then gone out to raise the money to adopt them. One Aviation Instruction Center, for instance, has decided that it should adopt 60, and is booming the business accordingly. Several sizable contributions already are the result of this campaign.

The Enlisted Men's Mess at A.S.R. Co. No. 3 sent for four children. The 2nd Aviation Instruction Center, as a whole, did likewise, with other contributions from different units stationed there. Officers' Mess No. 3 (P. and M. Hq. Mess) at A.S.P. Co. No. 1 adopted eight children. The Staff Officers' Mess at A.S.R. Co. took two. These are just indications of what the Air Service is doing.

In the other contributions the Machine Gunners and the Ordnance Division were particularly well represented while, as a result of the S.O.S. campaign, 20 children were adopted by the service distinguished themselves for generosity.

What Corporal Sims Did

The officers of the Quartermaster Depot at Montoir contributed 2,500 francs for five children. Forty-three men of the 2nd Aviation Instruction Center, Chief Surgeon's Office, raised 2,000 francs for four children.

"We are contributing half our mess fund in conjunction with the rest of the Chief Surgeon's Office," they announced, casually.

The 21st Field Artillery regiment broke all previous records for the Artillery by adopting 44 children in a bunch. The money—22,000 francs—came in with a letter from Chaplain W. H. Morgan, which read:

"I think it is due to Corporal Sims of the 1st P. A. Band that it is stated that so much more than anything else is due the credit for what we think is a fine showing in this splendid enterprise of yours. He is a teacher in the Pat Sims Bible Class of the Headquarters Company, and inaugurated the movement which has terminated in this remittance. The Bible class has an unbroken record of bi-weekly meetings since long before leaving the States.

Corporal Sims was given ten days' freedom to present the claims of the French orphans to the regiment. He worked unceasingly. We feel that if we are not the better regiment in the number of orphans taken we want to know it. We are further steps to put ourselves over the top. The men responded to this cause joyfully, and the amount gathered represents a great many smiles as well as francs.

In the list of regimental contributions there is only one regiment which exceeds that of the 21st Field Artillery. That is the 166th Infantry from Ohio, which, in a campaign conducted between June 1 and 15, 1918, pledged itself to support 54 children. This still stands a record.

Three for One Captain

The 305th Trench Mortar Battery took three children; Co. E, 15th Engrs., sent in 1,000 francs for the two most hard-up-against-it kids; to be found Co. B, 87th Engrs., adopted four orphans; the Supply Company, 117th Infantry, adopted three, every man in the company paying his pro rata share at the solicitation of Corp. Allen Jones.

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NEW GUESSING CONTEST

(BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.) AMERICA, Nov. 28.—Pure matters of guess are the daily announcements of the members of the United States peace commission which range through Taft, Root, Hughes, Baruch, Baker, Hoover, House and a dozen others.

Mrs. Carr Chapman Gatt wants a woman to sit at the peace table, and the anti-suffragists, upon hearing of it, immediately started an indignant agitation against the proposal.

The American Federation of Labor has gone on record as wanting Samuel Gompers to go. The United States Senate would like to see some Senators included. In the meantime, the country at large is sawing wood and saying nothing, apparently, wishing merely that America's best men shall go.

The President's decision to go, of course, is another welcome occasion for discussion, distinguished chiefly by a prodigious expenditure of verbiage. Exceedingly important statements are made daily as to his purpose in attending the peace conference, but, unfortunately, they are all different.

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OVER, OVER HERE, NEW YANK ANTHEM

Hoboken Proves Winner in Famous Three Cornered Debate

"And we're going back, for it's over, over here," is the new version of the old song which sprang into vogue when 1,000 sick and injured Yanks, gathered from the hospitals in the vicinity of Bordeaux, left for the United States early this week. This was the first "ouchment of returning soldiers to leave the port of Bordeaux. It was a regular party, that home-going party, in spite of the fact that many of its members carried wounds which will mark them for life. For them, at least, the slogan which had steered many a heart on the battlefields of France—"Heaven, Hell or Hoboken by Christmas"—was to prove true, with Hoboken drawing the winning card, and there was not one who did not see visions of a Christmas back there with all that that holiday spent at home means.

In the detachment were Yanks who had fought at Château-Thierry and others who had received their injuries along the Marne and in other sectors held by the American Army. Many wore Distinguished Service Crosses and Croix de Guerre, and an enterprising hock shop dealer would have died of envy if he could have seen the display of souvenirs.

Direct to Docks in Trains

The men were taken from the hospitals in special trains direct to the embarkation docks, where a large hospital had been erected to take care of them until they were put upon the ship. Everything was provided for their convenience under the supervision of the Red Cross. They were accompanied by Medical men and nurses to care for them, and the ship carrying them was well provided with medical supplies.

The Surgeon General's office has arranged that every care shall be taken of the patients from the various hospitals in the vicinity of Bordeaux on the return trip to the States. Each homebound contingent will take with it its own quota of doctors and nurses. In this way the men will be properly cared for on the trip, and the doctors and nurses will be returned home also, thereby killing two birds with one stone. Adequate medical facilities will also be provided in each instance, it has been announced.

Owing to the fact that Bordeaux is to be one of the chief ports of embarkation for the Army, the week has been one of unusual activity there. Additional clerks, to take care of the necessary records, have been provided, and construction work for the providing of facilities for the embarkation of troops at the docks has been going forward rapidly.

EIGHTEEN BILLIONS FOR WAR (BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.) AMERICA, Nov. 28.—The Fourth Liberty Loan turns out to have been some pumpkins, with \$981,000,000 over-subscribed.

Altogether, in the last 18 months the American people have subscribed \$17,652,000,000 of Liberty Loans and War Savings Bonds.

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War Choir
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BREST MAINTAINS LEAD POSITION IN STEVEDORE RACE

Continued from Page 1

boys feel about the race. It was overheard at the docking of the steamer Wesserdijk, at Dock No. 11, St. Nazaire:

Stevedore (to soldier on deck of ship): What is you-all got on dat ship?

Soldier: Horses.

Stevedore: How much tonnage to you horses?

Soldier: What?

Stevedore: How much tonnage to you horses? We's on de "Race to Berlin" and what we wants is tonnage.

Bordeaux, in spite of the two days it had to knock off, established a new record of its own by unloading 10,830 tons of freight in one day, beating its former mark by 188 tons. When they found that they were behind owing to the moving process, the Stevedores got on to the docks a half hour earlier on Saturday morning. Their total average for the week was 8,230 tons each day, only 165 tons less than that of the second week, so it can be seen that they caught up with a vengeance.

Week's Champion Outfit

The 835th Stevedore Company was the banner outfit of Bordeaux's second week of the race, winning the right to wear the coveted brassards and to lead the big parade carrying the Gen. Connor banner to work each morning. The men also enjoyed all of the special privileges of the camp for the week.

At the St. Sulpice warehouses, not far from Bordeaux, the men are unloading cars just as fast as they are being sent from the docks. Col. Mebold, commanding St. Sulpice, has the Bordeaux dock gang that his men can unload the cars faster than they can be shipped to St. Sulpice, and there is a merry young war on, with no armistice.

Rochefort complains that it is not getting enough ships. His poster reads: "It used to be carried silly, and they would get it if the chow kitchen wasn't blown up; but now, while marching toward the chow, they can cook a real meal. I mean, more food, more supplies. Will you lay down on those who are now completing our success that will get you on your way home soon? No! Then send on the food and supplies!"

At La Pallice the gang took a terrific delight in jumping from eight to fifth place. Even the big athletic meet, held yesterday, was not talked of as much as the all-pervading topic of the Race to Berlin.

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