

CHATEAU-THIERRY FIRST GREAT TEST OF YANK AND BOCHE

Americans Sent to Meet Foe at Apex of Thrust for Paris

2ND AND 3RD IN BIG FIGHT

Villages of Belleau, Boursches and Vaux Write Themselves in Our History

From a strength reckoned by the Allies at about 80,000 men on the front between Coucy-le-Chateau and Reims on the evening of May 26, 1918, to a strength which they soon knew to be at least 145,000 men on the same front the following morning and over 200,000 on the 28th—such was the surprise effect of superior numbers quickly concentrated which the Germans, owing to their possession of the initiative, were able to inflict upon their opponents in the third of their great offensives of the spring and summer of 1918.

By the breach in the Allied line which thus was accomplished, particularly along the famous ridge of the Chemin des Dames, the VIIIth German Army, under General von Boehn, operating toward Soissons and to the east and west of it, and the 1st Army, under General F. von Below, advancing to the eastward of the VIIIth Army with the left wing of its attack near Reims, were able to pour swiftly southward, forcing back before them the weary and outnumbered French and British divisions, most of which had been sent to this "quiet sector" to recuperate after their desperate fighting in the battles of April and May in Picardy and Flanders.

For a few days following the 27th, the situation looked dark enough from the Allied standpoint. The German tidal wave, constantly reinforced by fresh divisions, continued, in spite of stubborn resistance to move southward toward the Marne, overrunning Soissons and Ferenc-Tardenois, leaving the devoted city of Reims in a salient which became daily more difficult to hold, and at last, by tremendous pressure, beginning to spread distinctly toward Paris along the comparatively open and level country between the Marne and the Ourcq rivers.

75 Kilometers from Paris

By the last day of May the advance of the Germans at the nearest point was scarcely 75 kilometers from the French capital and although the speed of their rush had been considerably slackened by the resistance of the French divisions thrown in against them, they still possessed all the advantages of the initiative and could elect their own points for driving their line ahead anywhere on the 40 kilometers of front between the vicinity of Soissons and that of Chateau-Thierry, which constituted the western face of the salient they had created.

Although the French army and people, with the gallantry and moral heroism which have characterized them in every previous crisis of their national history, refused to become panic-stricken when their third greatest setback and enemy within a period of ten weeks, the situation was obviously one of extreme gravity.

The Allied Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Foch, was obliged to keep in hand sufficient reserves to meet any blow which the Germans might strike at other points of the long Western battle front; at the same time he must utilize enough of his available strength to halt the formidable attack actually under way. That his forces were inadequate for such a crisis only adds to the brilliancy of the success with which he met it.

"All That We Have Is Yours"

Relying once more upon General Pershing's devoted declaration, made on behalf of America during the days of the German offensive in March, that "all that we have is yours; use it as you wish," and with a faith in the valor of the Americans which was the best incentive to their utmost efforts, the Marshal sent the 2nd and 3rd Divisions to a place of the greatest danger and, therefore, of the greatest honor—to the banks of the Marne near Chateau-Thierry and to the great Paris-Metz national highway where it crosses the rolling hills northwest of that city, there to throw themselves across the path of the German invasion and bar the road to Paris.

The 2nd Division, Maj. Gen. Omar Bundy commanding, was in rest billets at Chaumont-en-Vaux, northwest of Paris, and had just finished its observances of Memorial Day, May 30, when the word came to the division to get as possible and move immediately to the vicinity of Chateau-Thierry. During the ensuing 24 hours the troops were making the tiresome journey, and by the early morning of June 1, most of them had detached and advanced beyond Montmarais-les-Bains to establish rest quarters as established, a hamlet some 10 kilometers west of Chateau-Thierry, on the Paris-Metz road.

As they went forward, the news became steadily more disquieting. French troops were fighting a few kilometers to the northeast, but they were badly outnumbered and exhausted by long fighting and marching, and the Germans were pushing on so steadily that it would be necessary for the Americans to establish defensive positions at once.

By dark that evening that work had been, at least, begun. The 9th Infantry was in rest billets at Bonail, near the Marne southwest of Chateau-Thierry, to Le Thiolet, on the Paris-Metz road, whence the 6th Marines extended to Lucy-le-Bois and the 23rd Infantry, operating temporarily under the 43rd

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COBLENCE ENTERED; MEN OF THIRD ARMY NOW ALONG RHINE

Americans March Into Ancient Citadel "Sort of Casual Like"

GOAL REACHED BY TRAIN

Yanks Attract No More Attention Than If They Were Passing Through Blois

On the afternoon of December 8, 1918, the troops of the Third American Army entered Coblenz. This was the goal of the occupation. The Yankee had reached the Rhine.

Coblenz, the city which the Romans built there where the waters of the Rhine and the Moselle flow together, is the capital and focal point of the American Army of Occupation. As Mayence with the French and Cologne with the British, so Coblenz was, by the terms of the armistice, set aside as our bridgehead on the Rhine. For 35 kilometers on either side of it and for 30 kilometers ahead of it, we will patrol and guard its highways and by-ways until further notice—"until the completion of this duty."

Ever since that day in April of last year when America declared war, a good many of us have cheered ourselves along by little day-dreams in which we looked ahead and pictured to ourselves the arrival at the Rhine of victorious troops in olive drab. But it is pretty certain that none of us, even in our most prophetic visions, ever foresaw that that arrival would be made by train and that that train would be driven by Germans.

Double Time—by Request

The troops went forward by train because the fair Rheinland citadel lay many weary miles ahead of the plodding line of march, and the city was calling them. The city was calling them because the German forces had receded far beyond the Rhine, and it drenched any interregnum in that police power which spells law and order. So by Sunday evening, young Americans with guns stood guard over the Rhine bridges and paced their posts at the busy street corners of Coblenz.

For it was on Sunday that they set forth from Trier. It always is Sunday when the Third American Army begins anything. It was on a Sunday that it began its historic march to Germany. It was on a Sunday that it crossed the Rhine, and it was on a Sunday that it reached the Rhine.

The West-station in Trier was abustle with activity shortly after dawn, the heavy packed doughboys filing along the tracks to the considerable curiosity of the local American garrison.

The outfit, buddy, the men of the Sixth Infantry called out. "The best battalion in the American Army," was the answer, given with conviction.

The Old Fourth Division

To be more precise, it was the second—Major Fred W. Hockett's—battalion of the 39th Infantry, which was in the 4th Division and therefore honorably scarred from the bitter fighting below and above Montfaucon.

The German troop train, from the windows of which the doughboys were soon bulging in true American fashion, was on the hills at either side the bare ruins castles of the twelfth century, still marked with battles of a by-gone day, and still formidable in defense, the passing doughboys opined, if a good bunch could hold them with a few machine guns.

All along the way the villagers ran out to greet the Americans go by, some just to stand and stare incredulously, some to wave hospitably as if in promise of the welcome ahead.

Into the Garrison

Probably never in all its stressful history did enemy troops enter it in quite the matter-of-fact manner which marked the American entry last Sunday. There was no band. There were no colors. We're just going in sort of casual like," one of our generals had said the day before, and he was right. The Third American Army eased its way into the Rhine citadel. There is no other word for it.

By 3:30 they were piling out of the train on the edge of the city, and ten minutes later they were swinging through the gate into their garrison. They had attracted about as much attention as an American battalion would attract by marching through the streets of Blois or St. Nazaire.

Of course, these were not the first Americans to enter Coblenz. Small detachments—feelers, pathfinders, outposts—always precede the Infantry, but a town is never really entered till the Infantry get there.

For some days staff officers had been on the edge of the city, and as long ago as a week ago Thursday the 35th Engineers arrived in force to establish the railroad. By the time the doughboys trundled into the station, American locomotives were whizzing in and out of the train yard as if the success of the occupation depended entirely on their getting somewhere immediately.

Washington announces additional troops for occupying Luxemburg. The troops in that country include the 2nd, 7th, 28th, 33rd and 79th Divisions.



"It is now our duty to make good what they offered their lives, their blood to obtain."

SERVICES PLAN TO AID RETURNED MEN IN SECURING JOBS

Y.M., K. of C. and Red Cross Set Machinery in Motion

SPECIAL AID FOR DISABLED Cooperation of Every Chamber of Commerce in United States Is Promised

No man in the A.E.F. need worry about whether or not there will be a job open for him when he returns home and is demobilized. Already the machinery has been set in motion all over the United States to line up jobs for the returning Yank, and the cooperation of every chamber of commerce in the United States has been solicited and obtained.

In every city and town where a Y.M.C.A. branch is located, appeals have been made to the business men to allow the Americans on leave, under proper escort, to make short excursions into Spain, so that men who want to be able to brag about the number of countries they have been in can "take on a new one," so to speak.

Winter sports and "cuts" are the main features of the Pyrenees district, the advance scouts say. Practically all the famous chefs of the world have come from there, and learned their art there. Two great men who hail from the Pyrenees are Marshals Joffre and Foch. Marshal Foch's birthplace at Turles is within easy reach of all four areas, and excursions to the town will be arranged. Another excursion point will be Lourdes, with its famous grotto chapel.

FOR HOME-BOUND OFFICERS

Officers of the A.E.F. returning to the United States will be paid any claims that they may have for mileage by the Disbursing Quartermaster at the base port at which they embark, according to an announcement from the office of the Chief Quartermaster.

K. of C. Employment Plan

The same general plan has been adopted by the Knights of Columbus, which organization, on the declaration of the armistice, turned over one of its councils into an informal employment bureau and started committees working or the rounding up of employers and the lining up of jobs, together with the solicitation of the labor unions' help.

The Red Cross, under whose auspices the Federal Board of Vocational Education has been working, is devoting its energies particularly to the securing of employment for men who have been wounded, with emphasis on men who have suffered serious disability and will

NEW LEAVE AREAS OPEN IN PYRENEES

Yanks May Take Trip to Spain from Resorts Near Border

Three new leave areas, in a new and utterly "un-American" part of France, the Pyrenees district, will be open to the A.E.F. beginning December 15, and a fourth in the same mountain region will be open January 1. They will accommodate 8,000 men at a time.

The three ready to open are situated at Luchon, six kilometers from the Spanish border, Carreets and Eaux-Bonnes. Fagnieres-Bigorres will open later. All are famous watering places, frequented by royalty and fashion in the days before the war. In each the Y.M.C.A. has taken over a large casino—at Carreets it has leased two—in which French and American concert and vaudeville troupes, French orchestras and American military bands will hold forth for the delectation of the Yank permissionnaires, and where dancing will be the order of every day.

Chance to Visit Spain

Special permission has been granted by the French frontier authorities to allow the Americans on leave, under proper escort, to make short excursions into Spain, so that men who want to be able to brag about the number of countries they have been in can "take on a new one," so to speak.

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NO MORE TRANSFERS

No more applications for transfer from one arm of the service to another will be received at G.H.Q. It is stated in Bulletin No. 97, G.H.Q. A cablegram has been received from the War Department prohibiting further transfers of this character.

ROCHEFORT SOARS TO FIRST HONORS IN RACE OF BASES

End of Fifth Week Sees Rouen in Second Place, Brest Third

PORTS WORK BOTH WAYS Embarkation Centers Get No Credit for Work Done on Westward Bound Ships

Rochefort is this week. The Vendée port lifted itself up by the bootstraps in the Stevedores' "Race to Berlin" from third in the weekly averages published a week ago to the head of the column. Rouen, which headed last week's line, came in second, and Brest, twice a first-placer, was third.

Table with 3 columns: Port Name, 5th Wk., For. Wks. Includes Rochefort, Rouen, Brest, La Pallice, Nantes, Bordeaux, Le Havre, St. Nazaire.

That makes the ports stand, for the five weeks just past, in this order: Rochefort, Rouen, La Pallice, Nantes, and St. Nazaire.

At Rouen, where there isn't a single Yank stevedore, the officers and the dock sergeants were a bit up against it at first, rather hesitating to approach the German prisoners who work there on the delicate subject of a race to the Prussian capital.

So they decided to try a little Yankee ingenuity, and by knocking the front of a couple of warehouses enabled the unloading cranes to swing farther inland, so that the Helms did not have to do so much toting. Thus fixed, the Helms were able, without knowing it, to unload and stack more stuff in a day than they ever had before—and without working any harder. And Rouen's figures rose.

Coming and Going at Brest

Again, with the co-operation of the French and British port authorities, permission was gained for the dock sergeants to float down the Seine to Havre, pick up the upcoming ships there, and have things all laid out for the unloading process the moment they docked. Thus was time saved, and more hatches emptied per day than before. And once more Rouen's figures rose.

Brest had to let down a bit because of its being made an embarkation port, a transformation that has already both St. Nazaire and Brest.

It didn't let down much, however, for it is still within good striking distance of the head of the list. The statistics are

PRESIDENT TO BECOME MEMBER OF A.E.F. TODAY; TROOPS A WAIT ARRIVAL

CHRISTMAS AHOY! YANK THOUSANDS SAIL FOR STATES

Bordeaux, St. Nazaire and Brest Ship Many Home During Week

GRADING OF MEN CONTINUES Disability Boards Examine B and C Men in S.O.S.—Return Not Compulsory

The tide of American troops from the shores of France rose to new heights the past week, and transports bound for those recently anonymous "Atlantic ports" of the United States carried more than 10,000 home-eager Yankees out of Bordeaux and somewhat fewer than 2,000 out of St. Nazaire. Brest, which has been principally concerned the past week with arrangements for receiving President Wilson, also found time to say God-speed to a few boatloads of soldiers.

Wounded men formed the big majority of passengers from all the ports, and reports from the whole S.O.S. told of hospitals rushing details so that as many convalescent soldiers as possible might arrive in the United States in time for Christmas.

Late announcements of units returning to the United States include: On steamship Mercury, clearing St. Nazaire: 548 sick and wounded and the 5th Anti-Aircraft Battery.

On steamship Leviathan, clearing Liverpool: 1,420 sick, wounded, doctors and nurses; small number of casual officers and men.

On steamship Maui, clearing Bassens: 2,328 casual officers and men.

On steamship Martha Washington, clearing Brest: Headquarters Company, 11th Field Artillery; 11th Field Artillery; 2nd Artillery; 2nd Artillery; 2nd Artillery.

On steamship Zelandia, clearing St. Nazaire: 43rd C.A.C.; 990 wounded; 20 nurses.

The official Army machinery for handling the thousands of homeward-bound men is now in operation at all the embarkation ports, and embarkation camps at billeting areas are filling with the soldiers who come from the hospitals and classification centers.

New Name for Rest Camps As one feature of the port plans, it has been officially decided that rest camps heretofore set in designated in all orders and other military orders as embarkation centers. In addition to the embarkation centers proper, each port will have an adjacent billeting and camp area to shelter thousands of soldiers.

While 10,000 men were embarking at Bordeaux this week, 14,000 other men—mostly Artillery—were arriving preparatory to departure. A chaplain will sail on each homeward-bound transport.

Many regulations governing departing troops have been announced. Officers and men ordered to embark will carry with them only their individual equipment—rifles, pistols, bayonets, etc., also the steel helmet and gas mask.

If You Want to Remain Organizations paid off while in an embarkation area will be paid in French money, but what French money remains in their possession when they receive orders to board the transports will be exchanged for U.S. currency.

All officers and men in the S.O.S. in

CROIX DE GUERRE WITH PALM FOR CHIEF OF S.O.S.

Maj. Gen. Harbord and Aides Honored for Valor in June Fighting

Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, Commanding General, S.O.S., was decorated with the Croix de Guerre with palm in the Place de la Gare at Tours Tuesday afternoon. Maj. Gen. Requinot, commanding the 9th Region of the French Army, presented the decoration to General Harbord in the name of the 6th French Army for valor last June while in command of the 4th Marine Brigade of the 2nd Division at Belleau Wood and Boursches.

Capt. Fielding Robinson, U.S.M.C., and Capt. Richard N. Williams, 2nd aides in general, were also decorated with the Croix de Guerre with gold star.

The presentation was made during a pouring rain in the midst of a hollow square formed of Marines, French Cavalry and Infantry, and officers and men from S.O.S. headquarters.

The 6th French Army citation concerning the decoration on General Harbord describes at length the heroism of the 4th Brigade of Marines under his command for their share in holding up and successfully stopping the German advance on Paris last June and the annihilation of various units of the command in the counter-attacks which cleared the Germans out of Belleau Wood and Bousches. The citations of Capt. Williams and Robinson recite their heroic acts in reconnaissance and liaison work under enemy shell and machine gun fire.

Chief Executive Will Be Accorded Fitting Welcome at Brest

REACHES PARIS TOMORROW

Army Envisages Prospect of Entertaining Its Head in Territory It Has Conquered

PREPARATION FOR RECEPTION Arrangements Completed for Greeting Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Secretary Lansing and Party

American Chief Executive, Woodrow Wilson, has entered the political waters of Europe. Latest reports from his ship, the George Washington, assure his landing today at Brest.

Important as this event is to world history, political and military, not to mention the fact that it is the first time a President of the United States ever visited foreign land during his term of office, the President's coming is viewed by nearly 2,000,000 soldiers of the American armies in France as of great personal significance.

In a way, says the possibility of having their Commander-in-Chief visit them on the ground they now occupy—which they won for democracy, after the world's most powerful autocracy had been conquered. To the soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces this idea is of paramount importance.

Elaborate arrangements for the reception of the President, Mrs. Wilson, Secretary of State Lansing and others of the presidential party have been carefully planned by the French and American authorities. These are based on the expectation that the President will arrive in Paris at 12 o'clock tomorrow morning, on the special train which has been provided for his use.

Whether Friday the 13th was intentionally selected for the President's arrival in France is not known. But it is generally conceded that Friday and Thirteen have each been replete with success since the President assumed office as President of the United States. With the two combined marking the beginning of the greatest task undertaken during his regime it is accepted by many that he will achieve his every aim in coming to France.

The steamer George Washington, accompanied by the naval convoy, was met at sea by vessels of the American Navy which have been in European waters on war duty. With them were others of the British and French naval forces which put out into the Atlantic to greet America's Chief Executive of their Allied nation. Thus before the President had opportunity to set foot in Europe the first manifestation of his welcome on this side of the water was made by the Allied world.

Proclamation at Brest According to the schedule officially announced the President will receive his first ovation on land when he disembarks today at Brest. The mayor of that, one of the oldest of European seaports, had made elaborate plans for the President's reception. Delegations from all parts of France, comprising high Government officials, military and naval, distinguished state officials and civilians, had gathered about the docks hours before the time scheduled for the arrival.

The mayor's proclamation, announcing the coming of President Wilson, had been posted for a week. There was no doubt that President Wilson was coming today, nor were there any who were unprepared to greet and bid him welcome. In his proclamation, the mayor said:

Citizens, Wilson, President of the great republic of the United States, champion of the rights of peoples, he whose insistence upon the principles of justice like that actuating the numberless citizen soldiers of his country, has permitted us to defeat Prussian militarism, is to be greeted here. The universal union of peoples is in the making, after the destruction of the powers of carnage and oppression.

The population of Brest will celebrate in a fitting manner the arrival of President Wilson.

All, to whatever party they belong, will adorn their homes with flags and take part in the manifestations of deep esteem and affection which are being prepared.

In Paris Tomorrow From Brest, the presidential party will be brought by train to Paris, where it is scheduled to arrive tomorrow morning.

Plans have been perfected by French and American officials to signalize the President's arrival in the capital in the most impressive and impressive manner. The French nation has been making elaborate arrangements for the entertainment of the presidential party. Numerous state dinners, official calls and a gala night at the Grand Opera have been arranged.

President Wilson will be met at the station by President Poincaré and other members of the French Government. From the time he arrives until the end of his stay in Paris, not a moment has been left without some plan for social and business engagements.

The French League of the Rights of Man decided to send a deputation to Brest to greet the President and to invite members of the league to celebrate his arrival in Paris. This organization will appeal to its affiliated sections throughout France to make known to the public the doctrine of democratic peace which President Wilson exposed to the world.

Holiday in the Capital All mercantile establishments in Paris have declared Saturday a holiday. The school children also will be out in force.

As soon as possible after the Pres-

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