

C-IN-C. TELLS OF A.E.F.'S SHARE IN ALLIED VICTORY

Report to Secretary Baker Is Army's War History in Epitome

MAY, 1917—NOVEMBER, 1918

First Installment Describes Task of Formation and Fighting Through St. Mihiel

In a report to the Secretary of War, the Commander-in-Chief has written for the folks back home an epitomized history of the A.E.F. The report deals with the organization and operation of the A.E.F., covering the period from May 26, 1917, to November 11, 1918. It has been given to the American people that they may know more about the great work that has been accomplished over here.

The Commander-in-Chief sets forth chronologically a summary of the history of the American Expeditionary Forces from the day back in May, 1917, when he sailed from America with a small staff until the armistice was signed. He tells of the formative stages of the American Army abroad and shows how by the co-ordination of the branches of the Service and the co-operation of our Allies, it was possible to whip rapidly into shape the victorious A.E.F. The Commander-in-Chief has many complimentary things to say about us. Whether we were in the S.O.S. working to feed and keep an army or up in the line giving the Boche a bit of his own hell, we got our share of credit. Concluding his report, the Commander-in-Chief says:

"Finally, I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardship, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal, and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country."

THE STARS AND STRIPES will publish the report in full in two installments, of which this is the first. The second will appear in the next edition of this paper.

The first installment has to do with the building up of the great Service of Supply and the multitude of problems that had to be overcome, and carries the A.E.F. through its early training and its first combat operations—Selcheper, Montdidier and Cantigny—relates how America fought at Château-Thierry and Belleau Wood and on the Marne last July; tells of the Soissons drive and America's part in the reduction of the deep Marne salient, and brings the story of the A.E.F. up to the time when the First Army was organized and the famous St. Mihiel offensive planned and carried out. Here it is:

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, GENERAL STAFF, SECOND SECTION.

To the Secretary of War—

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

In response to your request, I have the honor to submit this brief summary of the organization and operations of the American Expeditionary Forces from May 26, 1917, until the signing of the armistice, November 11, 1918. Pursuant to your instructions, I immediately upon receiving my orders, I selected a small staff and proceeded to Europe in order to become familiar with conditions at the earliest possible moment.

The warmth of our reception in England and France was only equaled by the readiness of the Commanders-in-Chief of the veteran armies of the Allies and their staffs to place their experience at our disposal. In consultation with them the most effective means of co-operation of effort was considered. With French and British armies at their maximum strength, and all efforts to dislodge the enemy from his firmly entrenched positions in Belgium and France having failed, it was necessary to plan for an American force adequate to turn the scale in favor of the Allies. Taking account of the strength of the Central Powers at that time, the immensity of the problem which confronted us could hardly be overestimated. The first requisite being an organization that could give intelligent direction to the formation of a general staff occupied my early attention.

General Staff A well-organized general staff through which the commander exercises his functions is essential to a successful modern army. However capable our divisions, our battalions and our companies as such, success would be impossible without a thoroughly co-ordinating endeavor. A general staff broadly organized and trained for war had not hitherto existed in our Army. Under the Commander-in-Chief, this staff must carry out the policy and direct the details of administration, supply, preparation and operations of the Army as a whole, with all special branches and bureaus subject to its control. As models to aid us we had the veteran French General Staff and the experience of the British, who had similarly formed an organization to meet the demands of a great army. By selecting from each the features best adapted to our basic organization, and fortified by our own early experience in the war, the developments of our great General Staff system was completed.

The General Staff was naturally divided into five groups, each with its chief, who is an assistant to the Chief of the General Staff. G-1 (General Staff-1) is in charge of organization and equipment of troops, replacements, tonnage, priority of overseas shipments, the auxiliary welfare associations and cognate subjects; G-2 has censuring enemy intelligence, gathering and disseminating information, preparation of maps and all strategic studies and plans, movement of troops and the supervision of combat operations; G-3 co-ordinates important questions of supply, construction, trans-

Continued on Page 6

SPORTS ONCE MORE

In next week's issue, THE STARS AND STRIPES will re-establish its Sporting Page, discontinued July 26.

In the issue of that date it was announced that the Sporting Page was out of the paper "until an Allied Victory brings back peace." The victory has come, and although peace isn't actually signed, the feature will not be withheld on a technicality. The fighting is over—the greatest world series in history is finished—and the Allies have got the pennant—and in these days of occupying Germany and marking time the great value and necessity of healthy exercise and recreation is fully realized.

The policy of the Sporting Page will be to chronicle broadly and encourage all sorts of legitimate sporting events in the A.E.F., and to keep the A.E.F. posted on what is doing in the sport line at home and elsewhere.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO WORLD IS NEW WATCH ON RHINE

Allied Armies Enter Upon Last Phase of Occupation

AMERICANS CROSS RIVER

Move Forward in Rainy December Dawn to Occupy Bridgehead Opposite Coblenz

On Friday the Thirteenth, in the fifth week of the armistice, the troops of the Allied Armies crossed the Rhine and so entered upon the last phase of the occupation. Today, the sentries who guard its bridges and pace their posts within the shadow of the ancient castles are not German soldiers. Potius and Tommies and Yanks, these three—and it is their Christmas present to a tired, thankful world—these three are keeping the watch on the Rhine.

It was just at dawn that the close-massed forces of the Third American Army moved forward in the dismal December rain to take and hold the bridgehead that is theirs today. By four bridges and four ferries, they moved quietly across the river, which is more beautiful than any our own country can show and which means more to Germany than any American river can ever mean to us. The Rhine, for all its castle-crowned steep banks, for all its massive and imposing fortresses, is more than a mere moat to guard the Fatherland.

To the Germans, it is a river of proud memories, the silver thread on which their history is strung, the link of lore and legend, the inspiration of their songs for which through countless generations its hissing waters have crooned a soft accompaniment. And then, in the gray of a December morning, an American army moved across the German Rhine.

When Reveille Meant Nothing

For this great hour in the history of the United States, many Americans were up and abroad an hour in advance of the sun, though reveille meant nothing in their lives. Gray-haired staff officers, Salvation Army lassies, cooks from neighboring messes, couriers, artists, war correspondents, they were all there waiting at the Coblenz pontoon—the Bridge of Boats—for the electric moment when the Rhine bridges should give forth the music, the ever-recognizable, ever-stirring music of American infantry on the march. And then, they knew in their hearts it would be what the French would regard as an indifferent show. They knew from long and gloomy experience that the American Army simply refuses to be dramatic. They were right. There was no fuss and feathers, no flourish of trumpets.

There were no stars. On the stroke of seven, the first mounted men clattered forward over the cobbles of the quay and the order "Forward March" sounded from post to post along the river front. It was raining and there was scarcely enough light in the heavens to rival as yet the twinkling street lamps. Faintly silhouetted against the gray sky were visible the great ramparts of Ehrenbreitstein and far below, where the Moselle swings into the Rhine, could be seen in sharp relief the stupendous statue of the first Wilhelm.

Following the Lovely Riza

This bridge—it was at the point where, according to Rhineland legend, the lovely Riza walked upon the waters from shore to shore a thousand years ago—this bridge was set aside for the First Brigade. It was the same brigade which, less than a year before, had, to the intense and audible amusement of the German Army, modestly settled down in the American old home sector "northwest of Toul."

First came Major Paul Daly of New York. He was on horseback and two mounted men followed close behind. Then, if history must have the prosaic order of march, came Brigadier General Frank Parker and some officers of his staff. Then some French officers. Then a Y.M.C.A. girl in a fur coat carrying a bunch of cookies and—bless her for a kind lady—three boxes of cigars.

Then the correspondent of the Chicago Daily News, accompanied by his dog Veslie, a plump and celebrated poodle who waddled across the Rhine ahead of the troops, wearing an intent look and bent as it afterwards developed, on searching for the first lamp-post on the left bank.

Continued on Page 2

A. E. F. CASUALTIES LOWER THAN THOSE IN CAMPS AT HOME

Boche Proves Less Deadly Foe Here Than Does Influenza in States

TRANSPORT TOLL HEAVY

Number of Cases in France Third as Great as Year Ago, Says Chief Surgeon's Office

The world epidemic of influenza and pneumonia found the A.E.F. so busy fighting and so busy working during the tail end of this autumn that it refused to be crippled or hampered by disease at the time when the whole United States was being ravaged by the twin maladies, according to figures prepared this week by the Chief Surgeon's Office. In the nine weeks of September 6 to November 8, at a time when the American Army of 2,000,000 was fighting its winning battles at the cost of its heaviest casualties, the total of deaths reported in the A.E.F.—from all causes, from disease as well as casualties in battle—was 10,750.

Back in the United States in the same period, although the number of men in camps and cantonments was approximately half the number of men in France, the total of deaths was 19,539. However, many deaths in action in the nine weeks were not reported to headquarters in time to be included in the figures for these weeks and they are shown in figures for later weeks. It should also be said that the death rate in camps in the States declined markedly after November 1, figures for the middle week of November showing 903 deaths, one twelfth as many as the toll of the week of most deaths.

The proportionate rate of influenza and pneumonia in the A.E.F. for the period was only one-eleventh the rate of incidence in the States, the Chief Surgeon's figures show.

A. E. F. Twice as Healthy

And that is not all. The Chief Surgeon says that right now the Army in France is "twice as healthy" as it was last year at this time.

Between November 15 and December 15 last year there were 2,230 cases of influenza per 100,000 troops in France, while between November 15 and December 15 this year the rate was only 96, or one-third of what it was a year ago. For pneumonia, for the same periods, the 100,000 rate in 1917 was 268, and in 1918, 140. This period of the year ordinarily is regarded as favorable to the development and spread of disease.

September and October, however, were deadly months for soldiers on transports bound from the United States to France. In the two months 1,180 soldiers died at sea before landing in France, and 2,336 other soldiers died five days after landing in France, making a total of 3,516 deaths at sea and after landing left to negligible figures in November.

Rapid and Steady Decline

This year, both influenza and pneumonia showed a rapid and steady decline in the A.E.F. after October 27, when the influenza rate per 100,000 was 610, and the pneumonia rate 100. On December 8, the influenza rate had fallen to 124 per 100,000, the pneumonia rate to 134.

The higher influenza and pneumonia rate in the States is largely attributed to the fact that the A.E.F. consists largely of men who have gone through the hardening processes of outdoor life, while the training camps back home contained a large percentage of men newly come from civilian life. The peak of October 11 brought the peak of disease to the camps from the States, 90,393 cases of influenza, 17,882 of pneumonia and a death total of 6,266.

Pneumonia assumed unusual virulence in the A.E.F. during the week of October 27, when 75 per cent of cases died.

SERGEANTS IN HONOR GUARD OF PRESIDENT

A. E. F. Old Timers Sentries Around Their Chief's Paris Home

"Halt! Who's there?" The intruder, advancing, suddenly discovered that it is a first sergeant he is dealing with and is just a little more careful about explaining his mission than he would be with a common, ordinary buck private.

But what has the sergeant done? Why is he walking post? Sergeants are not supposed to do sentry duty. There is a reason, however. Around the Murat mansion, President and Mrs. Wilson's temporary home in Paris, American sentries silently pace their posts day and night. Their uniforms well pressed for the occasion, every button buttoned and their shoes shining as though they had just come from the Q.M.'s issue room, the guards are as sleek and span as any you might find should you search the world over.

Almost All Non-Coms

A company was chosen from the 158th Infantry, consisting almost entirely of non-coms, to be the guard of honor to President Wilson during his sojourn in Paris. When it was announced that non-coms were eligible for the guard of honor, first sergeants, mess sergeants and supply sergeants, some of them who had not stood a guard shift for years, clamored for a place in the company. Many platoons there are in the 158th Infantry which are shy several sergeants and in one or two cases the company clerk is handling the top cutter's work, for that hard-bitten lord of doughboys has gone away for a few days to do honor to the President of the United States—his Commander in Chief.

AS PARIS ROARED WELCOME



President Wilson and President Poincaré setting out on the drive through the capitol last Saturday after the arrival at the Bois de Boulogne station

3,444 FINAL TOTAL IN WAR ORPHAN EFFORT

KEEP RIGHT ON COLLECTING D.S.C. of Real Christmas Spirit Won by Conspicuous Generosity

462 TAKEN IN 39TH WEEK

Francs May Still Roll In While Disposition of Family Is Being Decided

THE STARS AND STRIPES, in the name of the war orphans of France, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross of the Real Christmas Spirit, of the 333 A. E. F. orphans of any other class, the following organization for the act of extraordinary generosity described after its name:

THE A. E. F., France.—For extraordinary generosity all over France between March 29, 1918, and December 16, 1918, while helping hold the German at bay in the first half of 1918 and in the latter part of July, and in August, September, October, and the first 11 days of November, assisting the Allied Armies of the front, and the war orphans of the same cause for which its members proffered their lives. Throughout the entire war orphan campaign THE A. E. F. showed the highest contempt for destitution and poverty which, in many instances, followed its generous giving, and the concomitant thirst, hunger and loss of physical enjoyment. At all times and under all circumstances it was cool and collected, but for the most part collected. Home address: U.S.A.—and a little child shall lead them."

The all-A.E.F. war orphan campaign is the biggest—as we seem to remember having mentioned before—and, if we do not in fatherly pride ourselves, the most grateful family in existence.

Three thousand four hundred and forty-four children (a three and three fourths; it's easy to remember) have been adopted by two million more or less unpaternal-looking soldiers from a foreign land, the vast majority of whom draw only \$33 a month and, as one casually remarked, don't get it when they do.

24 Hours Grace Allowed

After running 39 weeks, from March 29, 1918, the campaign for the adoption of children closed Tuesday. It was scheduled to end Monday noon, but for the benefit of units hustling to get under the tape at the last minute, through the Post Office Department, and other bazzards of life, it was kept open 24 hours longer.

On Tuesday noon a total was struck, and it was found that the last week had brought in funds for the adoption of 462 children and was the best of the whole campaign, with the exception of the week in which the S.O.S. presented, in one bunch, the funds for 838 of the 1,000 and more children it is going to adopt from the departments of France recently freed.

After this figure had been attained and the fact that the 500 Christmas orphans the Orphan Department asked the A.E.F. to adopt 11 weeks ago had been multiplied almost by six, all that could be done was to prepare the above citation.

If We Had Enough Drag—

If the orphan department had enough drag with the C-in-C. and if it wasn't for the peace treaty's not being signed, the Atlantic ocean and a few other details, we would try to arrange a nice little presentation at which the A.E.F. would all line up and be kissed on both cheeks by the fairest of the 8,444 (young lady of about eight, of course).

Preferably, this ceremony would be held in the vicinity of Omaha, Nebraska, Continued on Page 3

PRESIDENT WILL EAT HIS CHRISTMAS DINNER AT A. E. F. MESS TABLE

BREST AND PARIS HONOR LEADER OF SISTER REPUBLIC

President Sets Foot on French Soil While Sea Guns Boom

CAPITAL ONE VAST THROG

All Brittany Turns Out in Native Costume to Welcome Notable Addition to A.E.F.

Amid the booming of the guns from a mighty Allied fleet and the returning salvos of the French shore batteries, amid the frantic "Vive l'Amérique!" cries of Brest's 90,000 population, quadrupled in size for the great day by an influx from all of Brittany and Finistère and the France that lies beyond, amid the enthusiastic "Yes!" and "At-a-boys!" of fully 100,000 Yanks, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, set foot on the soil of France Friday last, at exactly 3:22 p.m. by A.E.F. Signal Corps time.

At 4:22 p.m. on that same day, by the same time and token, the President sped out of the Brest railroad station on his way to Paris, there to receive on the morrow one of the greatest ovations in the history of that most enthusiastic and cordial of world capitals.

At any rate, no American who was present either at Brest or at Paris on one of those unforgettable days feels the same about his Americanism as he did before; they were days to make every American proud of his birthright, proud of his citizenship, proud of the service he had given his flag—prouder of them all than ever he was in the days gone by.

Days of Sheer Exultation

It was one loud, long, resounding roar from the moment that the twin smokestacks of the George Washington, which carried the President to France, loomed up out of the fog and mist of the harbor of Brest until the moment when the President, fresh from his reception at the Hotel de Ville in Paris, where his title of honorary citizen of the French capital was confirmed, alighted once more at the handsome residence of Prince Murat, in the Rue Monceau, his home during his stay in Paris.

Though he spent the Sunday intervening between his triumphant entry of Saturday and his formal reception of Monday in seeking a well earned rest, the city that was his host knew no repose. Up and down the boulevards all Paris romped and played, shouting aloud his name and that of the great republic which, as he says, it is "my privilege to serve." Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday were days of the sheerest exultation.

Naturally enough, it was the Navy which gave the President his first welcome, a steaming fully 90 miles out to sea, a division of ten American super-Aeronaughts with Admiral Sims' flagship, the Wyoming, at their head, encircled the George Washington and escorted superdreadnaught, the Pennsylvania, in a U-shaped formation, the while 40 American destroyers, camouflaged till they looked like prancing pinto circus horses, cavorted about astern as stern in the spray.

Out from the shore of France came to meet them two French cruisers and eight destroyers, the guns of the former barking out their salute of 21 guns in unison with those from the shore batteries. At 1:30 on that memorable Friday the Thirteenth, the whole flotilla took up its position in the trade of Brest, and the

Continued on Page 2

10,000 AMERICANS SEE CHIEF PARADE

Six Thousand Unable to Reach Paris Rendezvous Through Crowd

At the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne and along the line of march, 10,000 American soldiers witnessed the Presidential parade in Paris last Saturday.

Over 4,000 soldiers from various branches of the Army on duty in the District of Paris were assembled at the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne in accordance with the wishes of the French authorities, under the direction of Lt. Col. E. S. Sayre. There were fully 6,000 more who, on account of the congested streets, were unable to reach the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne and forced their way into the crowd all along the line from the Bois de Boulogne station to the Hotel Murat, the President's Paris headquarters.

The assembly at the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne was not a formation in a military sense. The space there had been reserved for American soldiers, who arrived in squads and platoons and were assigned to their respective places.

There was no presenting of arms or saluting. It was every man for himself, and the shout that greeted the Presidential party was a healthy one. The cheering lasted until the last carriage of the party had passed.

All along the four-mile line of march the Americans cheered their Commander-in-Chief until their lungs were sore. On every statue, at every open window, and high up in the branches of the trees, khaki-clad soldiers were to be seen beside the French polts and hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Place Not Yet Named, but Chaumont Should Be on Guard

THEN TO SEE BATTLE AREA

Trip Over Devastated Regions Will Precede Opening of Preliminary Peace Conference

MAY BESTOW D.S.C. AND D.S.M.

Hope Held That Commander-in-Chief Will Award Decoration to His Soldiers in Person

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States will be with his troops on Christmas day.

He will take his Christmas dinner in an A.E.F. training area. He will tell them something of his future plans for their welfare and that of the country which they have so well served.

All mess sergeants within a day's automobile ride of Chaumont are hereby warned to be on their guard, to assign their most conscientious K.P.'s the job of scrubbing off the old pantry shelves and mess tables in the eat-shacks. There's no telling, at this moment, which mess table the President will drop in on at noon of Christmas day. Certain it is that he will drop in on one of them, and preparedness is half the battle.

On Monday or Tuesday Mr. Wilson will leave Paris for the Vosges and Haute-Marne, and on Christmas Day he will review some portion of the Yanks now quartered in these two departments of France before reviewing the bill of fare of a smaller portion of them.

After the latter festival is concluded, the President will visit some of the devastated areas in the north of France, there to see with his own eyes the places where the A.E.F. has been fighting.

He will return to Paris in time for the assembly of the preliminary peace conference, and the views that he will expound before that all important body are already the subject of tremendous interest.

Yesterday the President paid his compliments to the head of a loyal Allied Nation, King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, who with his son, Prince Humbert, was royally welcomed in Paris. Tomorrow he will forego that with other great demerit, David Lloyd George, prime minister of England, and with Arthur J. Balfour, with whom, as head of the British mission that visited the United States early after our declaration of war in 1917, the President became intimate.

He will also meet the other members of the British peace mission, notably Andrew Bonar Law, who, though an hereditary Scotchman (like the President), is all the same a North American, having been born in Canada and knowing the United States and its problems.

The President's further plans during his stay in Europe are still more or less undecided, and any outline of them can be at best but speculation. It is regarded as certain, however, that he will visit and confer with some of the French and British generals—notably Mangin, Gouraud and Rawlinson—learn from them direct just what sort of fighters the Yanks who were under their command proved themselves to be during the stirring days of last summer and fall, and hear their own words with their own lips the unstinted praise recorded in their official orders and reports.

That done, the chances are that he will accept King George's invitation to visit England, to review Britain's war effort, and to make at least two public addresses, one at London and the other at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland may possibly be the scene of a third gathering held in his honor.

If there are any members of the A.E.F. who are now duly entitled to the D.S.C. or the D.S.M., but whose medals have not yet been officially awarded to them, the hope is held that it can be arranged for the President to confer the decorations in person—since they are all supposed to be awarded by him, and have hitherto been conferred by the C-in-C., A.E.F., in the President's name.

It is also hoped by every man in the S.O.S. that it may be practicable for the President to make a tour of that area, as did Secretary Baker, and the plan is now, if he makes his proposed trip to Italy, to have him start early enough to take in the more important S.O.S. stations on the journey south.

"NO BULL," WRITES ELSIE OF A.E.F.

Symptoms of Oncoming Christmas Reach Her in London

Elsie Janis, who really ought to wear an A.E.F. service stripe—and a front line cross, at that, if they decide to issue it—has been thinking of us again. Over in London she felt the symptoms of oncoming Christmas, and the result is a letter to the A.E.F., which she assures us is "no bull." Here it is: Dear Boys:

A very well deserved Merry Christmas to you all. Some of you may feel a bit homesick, but just think that you are alive and able to sit up and take notice of things—even though they may be German. The name of my new show is "Hullo! America!" It would be to change it to "Bravo! America!" Every one over here is charming to me and the audiences are very enthusiastic, but no audience can ever take the place in my heart of the A.E.F.—No bull!

Good luck! See you when we all get home. Elsie Janis. P.S.—More love from mother.