The Official Newspaper of the A. E. F.

The Stars and Stripes

By and For the Soldiers of the A. E. F.

VOL. 1—NO. 48. FRANCE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1919. PRICE: 50 CENTIMES. UNITED STATES, 10 CENTS. GREAT BRITAIN, SIXPENCE.

YANKS AT HINGES IN COUNTER BLOW BELOW SOISSONS

1st, 2nd, 26th Help Smash Western Side of Marne Salient

ALLIES REGAIN INITIATIVE

Americans Given Important Share in Victory That Saw End of German Hopes

If the home football team is on its own ten-yard line and the visitors, having the ball, give it to their left tackle and put their whole back field in to shove him through on a line plunge; and if, then, the line of the home team holds while its own left tackle goes through the visitors and get the ball on a fumble and the whole game begins working back up field—that is a successful counter-offensive.

It is, moreover, in the simplest terms, precisely the kind of counter-offensive which Captain Foch, of the Allied home team, put over on Captain Ludendorff, of the visiting German team, on July 18, 1918, when he got the ball of the initiative and began working back up field in that magnificent series of plays which were not to cease until victory should have been finally won on November 11.

Nevertheless, it must be remembered that, though the fundamental facts of the situation may be thus simply stated, their actual development was much more complicated. It is easier to see where an attack is going to be made along a line of 11 men, to stop it and to make the best counter-play, than it is to do the same things along a line of eleven hundred thousand men or twice that many.

By those who know, the change from the defensive to the offensive is considered perhaps the most difficult and delicate operation in the science of war. It will therefore be worth while to examine a little the conditions of the whole situation which Marshal Foch confronted and the measures by which he changed it to the advantage of the Allies, in order to bring into proper focus the contributions which were made to his success by the individual American divisions in his armies.

Foe Takes Breathing Spell

At the conclusion of their offensive to the Marne, which came to a standstill, roughly, about June 5, the Germans, as they had done after each of their previous great offensives, took a breathing spell in order to rest and replenish the divisions of their armies which had been worn down by fighting and then to accumulate these behind the lines in a maneuver mass which could be thrown into whatever part of the front the High Command might choose for the next great offensive.

By July 13 there had been thus accumulated behind the German lines, according to the best information of the Allied intelligence service, about 63 divisions which had been refitted, reinforced and rested for from 15 to 30 days.

Of these, a good many were in the sectors opposite the British armies and in the Amiens salient, a very few on the long front from the Argonne to the Swiss border, and a large number far enough back to be available for use in any sector, while 11 divisions were immediately back of Gen. F. von Below's First Army and Gen. von Einem's Third Army, which extended from the Argonne to Château-Thierry and belonged to the Army Group of the German Crown Prince. On July 13, which was two days before the beginning of the German attack along the Argonne-Château-Thierry front, these two armies were believed to have, also, about 18 divisions in front line.

At this time, it will be remembered, Germany was loudly boasting in her press that Marshal Foch could never hope to be able to assume the offensive because nearly all his reserves had been burned up by the German attacks, while the few he did have he could not wield as a mass of maneuver, being under the stern necessity of holding them to throw in against the German torrent wherever this might next dash against his lines.

72 Divisions in Reserve Mass

This was said, and perhaps the German command believed it, for the condition had been true enough at one time. But now, owing to French efforts and the rapidity with which American and also British troops had been coming over, the Allies had, as a matter of fact, a mass of reserves amounting to no less than 72 divisions. German superiority of numbers was, therefore, at last discounted, though they still had the great advantage of the shorter, interior lines for moving their reserves from place to place, which added a large percentage to their value.

Having been able, through an intelligence service which was unexcelled, to forecast with absolute accuracy the time, the place and the strength of the attack which the enemy delivered on the Champagne-Château-Thierry front on the morning of July 15, Marshal Foch was in a position to dispose just enough of his forces along that front to meet and hold the attack firmly.

On July 17, two days after the attack had commenced, the armies of von Below and von Mudra—who had taken the place of von Einem—had engaged 38 divisions on their front line and had 11 divisions in close support, reducing the total German mass of maneuver to 51 divisions. Yet they had nowhere gained more than a few kilometers of ground and were then being repulsed everywhere, in spite of their most desperate efforts, because the 27 Allied divisions in front line and 19 in close support, belonging to the Sixth, Fifth and Fourth French Armies, were ample to reduce them to impotence and to inflict upon them terrible losses.

The 42nd United States Division, in a sector of the Champagne battlefront about 30 kilometers east of Reims, and the 3rd United States Division sup-

Continued on Page 8

PRESIDENT TALKS PEACE IN ENGLAND; IS NOW IN ITALY

Commander-in-Chief Goes Through S.O.S. on Way to Rome

CHRISTMAS WITH TROOPS

Holiday Festivities Near Langres Include Review of Battle Scarred Divisions

President Woodrow Wilson, attached G.H.Q., U.S.A., Washington, on temporary duty with the A.E.F., reported back to Paris on New Year's Eve after a six days' tour of duty in Base Section No. 3 (meaning England), where he talked over peace problems with Lloyd George, the Premier, and other leaders. New Year's night saw him again on the road, headed for Italy, speeding through the regions of the S.O.S. en route to Rome, where he is now the guest of the Italian Government. His stay in the domain of our southern Ally will be brief, and the first of next week will see him back in France once more.

His one day's respite between "travel necessary in the public service" was a quiet, family New Year's Day, enlivened only by a game of golf. However, his Christmas was of a more public nature, for that day he set aside to buddy with his fellow countrymen in O.D. and tell them how proud the nation was of them.

To the 10,000 Yanks who, representing the whole A.E.F., marched in review before President Wilson at Humes, near Langres, the Christmas of 1918 will probably always be the greatest Christmas of their recollection. For on that day, they, as picked delegates from their fighting divisions, were introduced by General Pershing to the President of the United States at the commencement of the first defile of American troops before their Commander-in-Chief on foreign soil as "the Nation's victorious Army."

They heard General Pershing say, "I am proud to declare to the President that no Army has ever more loyally or more effectively served its country, and none has ever fought in a nobler cause." Any they heard the President himself, with a catch and a throb in his voice that, accomplished and confident speaker as he is, he could not control, declare, "The reason that we have been so proud of you is that you have put your heart into it; you have done your duty, and something more; you have done your duty and done it with a spirit which gave it distinction and glory."

Then, in company front, national and regimental standard, dipping in salute to the Nation's and the Army's head, they passed in review, eyes-righting as they came abreast of the President and his party, then turning on moving pivot and wheeling away, the while the band of G.H.Q. played as it never played before the great march of "The Regiment of Sambre-et-Meuse."

An Unforgettable Day

It was a great and unforgettable day in the history of American arms. It was equally great and unforgettable in the history of the two sister republics, France and the United States. Certainly no man who witnessed any part of the day's doings, at Chaumont, at Humes, at Montigny-le-Roi or on the long road back to Chaumont again, will fail to tell and retell the story when he gets home, the story of how the President spent his Christmas with the men who by their sweat and blood had builded on the battlegrounds of Europe the strong and sure foundations for his great plan of right and justice.

Christmas Day dawned cold, bleak and dreary, as days generally do dawn in the valley of the high Marne or on the Meuse at this time of the year. It was snowing slightly when the President's train drew into Liffol-le-Grand, and the guard about the tracks and station had need of every sweater, every leather jacket that its members had stuffed under their slickers. As the train pulled into Chaumont the snow ceased, however, and the sky overhead appeared as though it had come, rather sullenly to be sure, to the conclusion that as everything else was in gala form, it had better not be the only thing to spoil the day.

On the station platform just as though he, too, were on stationary guard—on Post No. 1, for example—stood General Pershing, ready, it seemed, to call, "Turn out the guard, commanding officer!" the moment his chief and guest

Continued on Page 3

CIVILIAN WORKERS REPLACE SOLDIERS

Exchange Already Begun, to Be Carried Out as Quickly as Possible

Civilian labor is to be substituted for the Engineers, Labor Battalions, doughboys and others who have been pinch-hitting with a shovel in the S.O.S. and elsewhere.

The exchange has already begun and, according to announcement this week by the Commanding General, S.O.S., it will be carried out as quickly as possible.

Recently 1,000 Chinese laborers were sent to Brest to work as stevedores, and it is expected that soon Chinese will be helping handle freight at all the base ports.

Thousands of civilian laborers were employed in the A.E.F. during the war. They came from Portugal, Spain, Italy, China and many other countries. These will be shifted from war work to armistice and demobilization work as far as practicable. The same applies to hundreds of typists, stenographers, clerks and office employees recruited in France and Great Britain.

FOUR OF THE A.E.F.'S 3,444

Reading from right to left, the three little girls, dimples and all, are, respectively, the adopted mascots of Co. E, 191st Engrs.; the Army Field Clerks, Intelligence Section, G.S., and Co. F, 20th Engrs. The little girl in the center thought the photographer was going to take away her uncle who was visiting her while on permission. The young man is wearing the Croix de Guerre his father died in winning.

NEW FRANC CALL BLOWS FOR ORPHANS' FUTURE

Children to Be Educated and Cared for in Years to Come

HELPING HAND FOR 3,444

Good Already Done Will Be Extended—What's Your Suggestion for Their Future?

With a sum of francs already on the credit side of the ledger significantly near 2,000,000, with 3,444 sons and daughters of French soldiers who died in the common cause of Liberty adopted and provided with a home for a year, a plan is announced this week for continuing and extending the good already done by the adoption of the A.E.F.'s unique war orphan family.

It is a plan to raise another sum of francs, of an indefinite amount, to help educate and provide for these children, bereft of home and father in the years when their fathers were fighting the battles before we came into the war—or in the year in which we fought at their sides—to give as many of them as we can as near as possible the opportunity they would have had if their fathers had lived.

When the armistice was signed, the lamp set in the window back home seemed suddenly to throw its heart-warming light all the way to the gates of Sedan. Soon we would all be going back, and there came then to many a man in the A.E.F. the wish that somewhere in France there should be raised a monument to the American soldier—some enduring gift to France that should keep his memory green long after the last uproarious transport had turned its prow toward that other monument which France set up years ago in the harbor of New York.

Should ours be another Statue of Liberty raised in the harbor of St. Nazaire? Should it be a shaft of bronze set on high Montfaucon in the Argonne? Should it be a bridge of marble to span the tranquil Marne there at Château-Thierry, where the first Americans stood to bar the road to Paris?

And from a thousand and one nooks and corners in the A.E.F. the answer has come in None of these. Nothing of bronze or stone, but a monument built of faith and hope and charity, one visible to all the world, a monument that should rest on the blood-drenched soil of France and reach to Heaven itself.

Foundation Already Laid

Already the foundation is laid. It was laid by those American soldiers (mostly privates) who went down into their own pockets and brought up from them more than 1,700,000 francs to give a year of health and home and laughter to 3,444 French youngsters.

On the happiest New Year's Day this old fool world ever saw, the A.E.F. found itself the proud and slightly bewildered godfather of a very colony of young France salvaged from the battlefields—such a bouncing family of young hopefuls as no army had ever accumulated in all history, just such a fatherless tribe as America herself would have had to worry about if the war had ever reached her shores.

That is the foundation of the monument. How high the shaft will rise and how rich and wonderful its decorations

Continued on Page 2

THIRD ARMY MAKES RHINE CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT

Trees in Open Spaces Blossom into Bowers of Light

SNOW COMES JUST IN TIME

Hymns Re-Echo Through Streets of Bridgehead Towns as Yanks March to Church

Young America has brought the community Christmas idea to the river Rhine.

From the military brain center at Coblence proper to the outermost point on the bridgehead perimeter, and throughout all the villages and towns lying between, the Yanks celebrated; not, of course, as they would have done had they been at home, but still as best they could under the circumstances.

And, spurred by the civilian preparations about them and by the fact that they knew they were in a land which had "invented" Christmas, they outdid themselves. The new spirit they brought with their outdoor tree and their illuminated cross—shining to the memory of the fallen warrior—has left a completely new impression of the day. The inhabitants of the army area have not yet done talking about it.

The hub of activities was in Coblence and, more particularly, in front of the former Prussian Administration building, on the Rhine Esplanade near the famous Bridge of Boats, now the headquarters of the Third American Army. For it was here, in the basin of a fountain, that the Americans the day before Christmas erected a mighty Christmas tree, 40 feet high, decorated from top to bottom with all the furnishings and furbelows that could be heaped on, and festooned, in addition, with strings and strings of colored electric lights, red and blue.

Why an Outdoor Tree?

All of Coblence that had occasion to pass along the esplanade that day watched and wondered. "Those odd Americans," was the burden of their thought, "setting up a tree outdoors for their soldiers." Why not hire a hall and put one up where it is warm?"

They saw why when, in the evening, after darkness had fallen, the great mass, which a moment before had been dark and shapeless, blazed suddenly into colored, dazzling life. And the band started to play one of Sousa's most stirring airs.

The windows of the Administration building were ablaze with lights also—and high up, in the middle of the roof, shone forth a great cross. The mass of young Coblensians around that tree couldn't contain itself. Martial by birth, training and instinct, the lights and the music nearly caused them to burst out of their skins. And their elders stood in the background and approved—and wondered.

This was Christmas Eve. The next day the news spread all over town, and doubtless all over the bridgehead, for when evening came the crowd of civilians packed the esplanade at the base of the tree. And when the lights were shot on, the "Achs" that rose on every hand told the many khaki fighting men scattered through the yard that their idea had been put across.

Everywhere in the Bridgehead

And this was only one spot in the Third Army area. Everywhere in the bridgehead, on a much smaller scale, of course, something was done in the way of celebrating, and, though there were a few points when nothing extra in the way of food could be served and no program held, the Christmas spirit and idea dominated the thoughts of the day. The boys wanted to be at home. Who wouldn't? But they couldn't be there, and so they might just as well make the best of it where they were, they thought, and perhaps by next Christmas——

The community idea was carried out in the churches, services, both Catholic and Protestant, being held in the

Continued on Page 3

HOW TO GET "THE STARS AND STRIPES" IN GERMANY

Extract from Administrative Bulletin No. 26, Headquarters Third Army, A.E.F., Coblence:

1. A cash sale office for THE STARS AND STRIPES is now open at Third Army Headquarters, Coblence.

2. Delivery of papers in numbers not less than 100 will be made by automobile to adjutant, chaplain, commanding officer or other officers authorized to supervise the cash purchase of papers for their respective organizations.

3. Orders for the ensuing issue are to be sent by regular courier through message center, addressed THE STARS AND STRIPES, Third Army Headquarters, and are to arrive not later than Monday evening each week.

4. For payment only American and French money accepted.

FRANCE MOBILIZED 6,900,000; LOSSES TOTAL 2,300,000

Destruction of Property Calculated at 64½ Billion Francs

SEVERE DRAIN ON GERMANY

Russian Figures May Exceed Enemy's Total of Killed and Wounded

One of the great factors in the concluding years of the war—a factor the dimensions of which the world was always obliged to guess at—was the drain on French man power. France bore her losses in silence. The figures of killed and wounded were never published. How great a part of the gallant youth of the country was snuffed out in that world crises known as the Battle of the Marne, how many Frenchmen died in the historic acres before Verdun—the onlooking nations could only surmise. When, in the late spring of 1917, friends of France called on America to hurry, much was hinted at and the phrase "France has been bled white" gained sudden currency from one end of the United States to the other.

Everyone know, then, that France had suffered grievous losses. How grievous no one knew until the official figures were given out the other day.

One third of all the Frenchmen called to the colors are permanently lost to the nation. France mobilized 6,900,000. Of these 1,400,000 are dead and 900,000 are permanently injured.

If It Were America

It is difficult for Americans to grasp such totals as these. France, with her 40,000,000, has less than half our population, and yet her dead are more than 25 times as many. But France, of course, was in the war up to the hilt from the first day, and America had no large number of troops under fire except during the final four months.

Take America. Discard, for a moment, the West and the South and New England. Consider just the Middle Atlantic and Middle Western States. In them, you would find a population not much greater than France's. Suppose, after calling to the colors the very flowers of their youth, those States had lost by death from wounds or disease a number of soldiers greater than the total number of combat troops America was able to send to France. Suppose those States had lost by death or disablement a number of soldiers greater than the total number of troops of all kinds, which America shipped to Europe during this war. Suppose these things, and you will have some conseption of the drain on French man power since August, 1914.

Aside from the loss of her youth, France's material losses reach staggering totals, for the battles were waged on her own land. They have been calculated at 64,500,000,000 francs, of which 20 billions are counted as the loss of homes and another 20 as the loss of factories.

Final British Figures

When the last shot was fired on November 11, France had 4,600,000 men mobilized. Of these, 1,600,000 (territorials factory workers, etc.) will be demobilized between now and March 1, when she will still have 3,000,000 men on duty.

For the total of losses by the British Empire, the world had been more or less prepared, for, whereas there had been no official announcement before the armistice, Lord Northcliffe ventured last fall on a guess which every one knew must be based on fairly complete information.

The official figures now made public are:

	Army.	Navy.	M.M'ne	Raids.	Total.
Killed	658,704	33,361	14,661	1,413	708,139
Wounded	2,032,142	5,183	—	3,407	2,040,732
Missing or Prisoners	359,145	1,222	3,295	—	363,562
Totals	3,049,991	39,766	17,956	4,820	3,112,533

These figures do not include 19,000 deaths among troops not forming part of the Expeditionary forces.

No member of the Alliance (with the

Continued on Page 3

THOUSANDS MORE ON JOURNEY HOME; COMFORT KEYNOTE

"Patience, and Reach America a Well Man," Transport Motto

BOOKINGS TO JANUARY 11

Total of 96,883 Men and 4,418 Officers Can Be Accommodated Early in New Year

The A.E.F. is sailing for home as fast as ships are being provided. But the men in America who are directing the troop transportation job are cautioning patience. For one thing, we are going back in more comfort—and with more regard for health—than we had when we came over. The ships are not being loaded so heavily.

"It is only a matter of patience," said a telegram received this week from one shipping director in America. "We don't want our fighting men returned to us like cattle."

At noon on December 21, it was announced this week, 5,571 officers and 111,606 men were at the base ports ready to sail for the States. Of this number 2,036 officers and 36,528 men were at that time actually under orders to embark. In addition, 62,000 officers and men were under orders to move to Brest as soon as they could be accommodated.

Ships in port and those coming in up to and including January 11, will accommodate 4,418 officers and 96,883 men.

The skeleton of the 76th Division, which has been in replacement since it has been in France, the 347th Infantry and several units of Field Artillery have sailed for home during the last few days.

The Latest Sailings

Late announcements of departures for the States include:

On Steamship Craster Hall, sailed December 20, casuals only.

On Steamship Eastern Queen, sailed December 19, casuals only.

On Steamship Antigone, sailed December 22, 76th Div. Cadre; St. Aignan Casual Co. No. 402 and 52nd C.A.C.

On Steamship Hwahjah, sailed December 23, St. Nazaire Casual Depot No. 2.

On Steamship Veendijk, sailed December 22, St. Nazaire Casual Co. No. 119.

On Steamship Toula, sailed December 22, casuals only.

On Steamship Matsonia, sailed December 23, 143rd F.A., less Hq. and Batteries A and B; 144th F.A. and Bordeaux Casual Cos. No. 1 to 6 inclusive.

On Steamship Koningen der Nederland, sailed December 25, Hq. 163rd F.A. Brig. (88th Div.); 125th F. A. Regt. (34th Div.); Bordeaux Casual Co. No. 9; Blois Casual Cos. No. 327,332 and 333 and Beau Desert Hospital Co. A-93.

On Steamship Powhatan, sailed December 25, 59th F.A. Brig. Hq. (34th Div.); 127th F.A. (34th Div.); 115th Trench Mortar Battery (40th Div.); Bordeaux Casual Co. No. 8 and Beau Desert Casual Cos. No. 21, 22, 23, 25 and 26.

On Steamship Siboney sailed December 25, 86th Div. Cadre; 161st F.A. Brig. Hq. (86th Div.); 333rd F.A. (86th Div.) and casuals from Blois and Beau Desert.

On Steamship Pastores, sailed December 25, casuals from B.H. No. 114, 6 and 22, also other casuals.

On Steamship Bali, sailed December 27, detachment Bordeaux Casual Co. No. 8 and medical casual detachment.

On Steamship Keresasta, sailed December 27, Bordeaux Casual Detch. No. 2.

On Steamship Henderson, sailed December 24, casuals only.

On Steamship Mauretania, sailed December 24, 347th Infantry less Co. H.

On Steamship Northern Pacific, sailed December 24, 8th T.M. Battery (5th div.); 5th Anti-Aircraft Sector, including Batteries 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and Hq. and Supply Cos.

On Steamship North Carolina, sailed December 24, 113th Am. Tn., F and S of Hq. Co. (38th Div.) and Co. F (38th Div.).

On Steamships Finland and Madawaska, sailed December 27 from St. Nazaire, 5,000 troops, about half being sick and wounded. On Finland, 10 casual companies, classes B and C, Hq. 87th Div., two battalions 345th Inf., 2,238 troops and 929 sick and wounded. On Madawaska, 1,000 troops and 900 wounded.

On Steamship Pocahontas, 338 F.A. and 126th F.A.

OLD CAMPAIGN HAT WILL NOT COME BACK

New Ones Too Few, While Veterans Adorn Other Extremities

The campaign hat will not come back. Hope has been held—some 2,000,000 separate hopes extending from Bordeaux to Ehrenbreitstein, in fact—that it might. That hope is futile. The American crown of victory will continue to be the overseas cap, until such time as it is supplanted by the fedora, the derby or the straw.

The reason for the suppression of the campaign hat is not hardheartedness. There is, first of all, the very excellent reason that there are nowhere near enough of them to go around. Just how many unused or decently salvaged campaign hats there are in his storehouses the Q.M. does not know. He does know that the number is so small that only a fraction of the Army could be supplied them, and he declines to play favorites.

To supply the whole A.E.F. with campaign hats would mean the diversion of some shipping to South America to bring back rabbit hair, from which, the soldier may be surprised to know, the hats are made. Further, it is a question whether there is enough rabbit hair available.

The fate of the campaign hats that were turned in by the tens of thousands when the overseas cap (first issue) came into brief being is soon told. They went into salvage, and thence into a machine that flattened them, cut them and converted them into felt slippers for hospital patients. Salvage experts demur at trying to make the slippers back into hats again.

The overseas cap, second issue, has been seen back in America on the heads of soldiers whose foreign service began and ended at Newport News.

ALL DUE SPEED IN DEMOBILIZATION, SAYS SECY. BAKER

Process Moving Swiftly, in Order and as Planned, He Declares

AMERICA'S 1919 GREETINGS

"Your Patience Must Aid in Adjustment to New Conditions," Statement Points Out

"The process of demobilization is moving swiftly, in order, and in accordance with plans," declares Secretary of War Newton D. Baker in a New Year's greeting addressed to "those in the uniform of the United States Army." Further, the secretary says that America will return her armed power "to the pursuit of peace with all due speed."

"As you have shared in the pride of the first accomplishment," continues the secretary, referring to the speed with which America made her power felt against the enemy, "so must your patience aid in the present adjustment to new conditions." The statement follows:

"Greetings to those in the uniform of the United States Army:

"To you who have fulfilled the promises of the Nation overseas and you who stood ready in reserve at home, I send greetings for the New Year. The year of 1918 has shown what America can do; 1919 will show what America is.

"Your part in the great accomplishment has been a vital one. The part you will bear in the days to come will be no less important for our Country. The process of demobilization is moving swiftly, in order, and in accordance with plans. Clearly everything cannot be done at once and patience will be needed. Each step must follow the step before, and some units will go quickly, while others may be held at little longer for reasons that are very real, though sometimes not apparent on the surface.

Made Power Felt Quickly

"As America made her power felt more quickly than the foe thought possible, so she will return that power to the pursuit of peace with all due speed As you have shared in the pride of the first accomplishment, so must your patience aid in the present adjustment to new conditions.

"The privilege of having stood in the ranks of the Army of victorious democracy will be your pride through the years to come. If fortune had decreed that only weeks or months remain for you to stand in those ranks, instead of bloody years as our Allies have done—then bear yourselves through the remaining days in a way to increase that pride.

"The best wishes of the Country for 1919 and all the coming years are yours. To these I add my own heartiest good wishes and the confidence that in the future, as ex-soldiers, as you have done in the past as soldiers, you will continue to reflect the highest honor on our country.

"NEWTON D. BAKER."

SPECIAL LEAVES TO VISIT PARIS PLAN OF C.-IN-C.

Possibility That Everyone in A.E.F. Will Get Chance

If plans now under consideration go through, a great number of the officers and soldiers of the A.E.F. will have an opportunity to visit the French capital before their return to the United States. It is the intention of the Commander-in-Chief to give, if possible, every one of us the chance to begin at least one war-time reminiscence with the phrase: "When I was in Paris——"

G.H.Q. admits that this is a hope—not a promise. There are a number of difficulties in the way which might prevent the carrying out of this plan. The first and most important is the question of transportation. Railroad transportation is not only limited, but practically all available transportation is now being used to the utmost.

The second difficulty is the present congested condition of the capital. This is due not only to the fact that 10,000 American troops are stationed in or near Paris, but particularly to the fact that the peace conference has attracted to the city a large number of official visitors and others, so that it is almost impossible to find hotel accommodations. Arrangements are now under consideration, however, for special accommodations which would be sufficient to care for a large number of men on leave.

To Satisfy Long Yearning

If the Paris leave goes through, it would be a special leave and would not be affected by the arrangements now being carried out for sending troops to the regular leave areas.

Of course, a yearning for Paris has been in the back of every mind in the A.E.F. since the first transports pulled in at St. Nazaire. More than ever now the magical city beckons, for it is no longer dimmed, anxious, self-denying Paris which listened to the invader's cannon last summer, but a Paris of packed theaters and boulevards all strung with lamps, a Paris a-bustle with preparations for the peace conference and a-thrill with the coming and going of all the great folk of the world.

The Commander-in-Chief has taken all these things under consideration, and he hopes to be able to reward with a chance to see Paris those men who have spent most of their time in France in barns, in dugouts and in foxholes.