

26TH HAS PIVOTAL POINT IN ATTACK ON MARNE SALIENT

Chemin des Dames Veterans in Sector Northwest of Chateau-Thierry

SHARE IN JULY 18 STROKE

Given Difficult Task Before Path Opened for Straightaway Push Against Stubborn Enemy

To have been first of the American divisions not of the regular Army to participate in a great offensive, and to have taken part in every American offensive after that until the end—such is the proud record of the 26th, the Yankee Division, which went forward to the Chemin des Dames, July 18, in the sector northwest of Chateau-Thierry and accomplished results therein which were to add still greater fame to the region where the 2nd Division had halted the German advance early in June.

When it relieved the 2nd Division in that sector on July 19, the 26th was already reformed in all phases of trench warfare, for in the preceding winter it had gone into line on the Chemin des Dames on February 6 and remained there for 50 days, and immediately thereafter it had spent 86 days in the Toul sector.

The division in July was under the command of Maj.-Gen. C. E. Edwards and consisted of the 51st Infantry Brigade under Brig. Gen. C. H. Shelton, containing the 101st and 102nd Infantry and the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion; the 52nd Infantry Brigade under Brig. Gen. E. Cole, consisting of the 103rd and 104th Infantry and the 103rd Machine Gun Battalion; the 51st Field Artillery Brigade under Brig. Gen. J. H. Sherburne, consisting of the 101st, 102nd and 103rd Field Artillery Regiments, the 101st Engineers and other divisional troops.

The sector northwest of Chateau-Thierry was not a pleasant place in the middle of July, 1918. The shallow and incomplete trenches extending from near Vaux and Bouréches around the east and north edges of the Bois de Belleau to a point near Belleau were under constant harassing fire from the German batteries running far back across the hills to the northeast, while German machine guns and snipers were comfortably installed all along the edges of the woods, the banks of the Ru Gobert creek and in the ruined villages of Belleau and Torcy, close to the American front lines.

Orders to Go Over After a week of existence under such circumstances the situation became irksome, and there was no regret or hesitation in the ranks of the 26th when on the night of July 18 orders were issued from General Liggett, commanding the First United States Corps, to go over next morning and chase the Germans out.

There was no hesitation, but from the tactical standpoint, the problem was a difficult one. As the division lay in sector, the 101st Infantry was to the right, the 102nd Infantry, facing north; then came the 102nd Infantry, extending to a little beyond Bouréches and facing east; then the 104th Infantry, in the Bois de Belleau, facing east and northeast, and then the 103rd Infantry on the extreme left, facing northeast and north.

By the terms of the general counter-offensive, the 26th Division was to act as a pivot until the bulge in the Allied front running northwest toward the

Continued on Page 8

ALLIED SOLDIERS EXEMPTED FROM TAX ON LUXURIES

Officers Can Save 972 Francs, Men 208 Every Four Months

Officers, enlisted men, in fact, all uniformed members of the A.E.F.—which includes members of the auxiliary services—are to be exempted from payment of the French luxury tax. Under a decision of the French Minister of Finance, recently made public, this tax will be refunded by commercial houses, hotel keepers, restaurant proprietors and others upon purchases or payments of bills. The decision affects all members of the Allied Armies.

A limit is set, however, to the expenditures of both officers and enlisted men. The former are exempted to the extent of 972 francs every four months and the latter to 208 francs for a similar period. Books of tax receipts are issued which may be renewed at the expiration of this period when presentation of the covers of the old book is made. Although there is no law against the issuance of two books at the same time, or renewal of an old one, before the prescribed four months are over, the regulations state that "the good faith of the American E. F. is pledged" and that the coupons are "non-transferable."

The refund of the luxury tax will mean a saving to soldiers in many ways. This tax is chargeable on theater tickets, hotel rooms, lunches and dinners in certain restaurants, motion pictures—in fact, everything that is not strictly essential to one's very existence. The distribution of books containing coupons, varying in tax saving from one to five francs, will be general throughout all France.

3rd LIEUT., U.S.A.

"Third Lieutenants," the latest thing in uncommissioned officers, are beginning to make their appearance in the replacement camps. They are the men who finished the officers' training schools after the "no more commissions" order was issued from Washington. Since they are supposed to fit in somewhere between a buck and a second lieutenant, they rank as "Dovetails."

Most of the men wear a black stripe on their sleeve which, it has been suggested, may be considered as a delicate tribute to the memory of the too-late Sam Browne.

YANKS WILL NOT HAVE TO REBUILD FRENCH VILLAGES

And There Never Was Any Such Boche Killer as "Edison Gas"

"TRENCH RENT" ALSO BUNK

M. Tardieu Gives Official Denial to War Rumors That Had German Accent

Three of the most persistent of the dozens of rumors which circulated through the A.E.F. during the war, now believed to have been put in circulation by German propagandists in an attempt to undermine the friendliness of French and American, were finally set at rest this week by an authoritative denial issued by M. André Tardieu, the French High Commissioner for Franco-American Affairs.

There was one fine yarn which traveled up and down the A.E.F., on the subject of the French towns destroyed in the path of the American advance. Rumor had it that, before the wicked American gunners were allowed to blast the Germans out of the helpless French villages in which they had dug themselves in, the French government raised a restraining hand and stipulated first that, before they might fire a shot, the rough Americans must promise to rebuild every village.

Then, the story went wildly on, General Pershing, in order to press on toward victory, reluctantly gave his promise. The Americans went into a town and a grain of truth in it, is dismissed by M. Tardieu's denial.

"Edison Gas" Blows Up

It also takes the trouble to deny the grotesque yarn which furnished a climax to that long series of rumors about "Edison gas." The Americans went into the war with a secret conviction that, in some mysterious way, Mr. Edison would lock himself up in his laboratory and win it for them. Therefore there was soon flourishing some low-down that he had invented a gas so deadly that, with a single charge, the whole German divisions would be obliterated. When summer wore on and no evidences of such wholesale and agreeable destruction in the American sectors was forthcoming, there had to be some explanation of what had befallen the Edison gas. Of course the real explanation was that there was no such thing as Edison gas.

But that would never do. So rumor, speaking with a pronounced German accent, was soon busy with the tale that the French had cruelly forbidden the use of it by the brave Americans, and under the whole German divisions would be obliterated. When summer wore on and no evidences of such wholesale and agreeable destruction in the American sectors was forthcoming, there had to be some explanation of what had befallen the Edison gas. Of course the real explanation was that there was no such thing as Edison gas.

Continued on Page 2

PRESIDENT READY FOR PARLEY'S START

Returns to Paris After Tenuous Welcome in Italy

After a trans-Alpine campaign that brought him such a laurel welcome as few victorious warriors have received, President Wilson returned to Paris from his peaceful invasion of Italy with plans for the League of Nations and America's part in the peace conference preliminary, which are expected to begin about the 14th. The conference itself is expected to open around the 20th.

The President was received by the American Episcopal Church, after the other Italian cities were visited, his hearty welcome growing with his stay, until the demonstrations reached their height in Turin, where the people rushed the building from whose balcony he spoke in a seeming attempt literally to throw themselves at his feet. Every where the keynote of the speeches was "a just and lasting peace."

Condolences to Mrs. Roosevelt

Pleasure in the triumph of the visit was touched with grief when the news of the death of Colonel Roosevelt was communicated to the party after the train started on its return trip. The President immediately called condolence to Mrs. Roosevelt and ordered the lowering of flags on the Government buildings in Washington.

After a short rest the President immediately began conferences with the American delegates who are shaping the American memorandum on the League of Nations, which will be discussed with the plans of the other delegates taking part in the preliminary meetings. It is expected that the President will attend the first meetings of the conference itself. It is believed that if it becomes necessary he may return to take part in later discussions.

KRUPP ANTIQUES SPURNED BY U.S. ARMISTICE BOARD

German Models of 1873 Ruled Out; New Guns Demanded

200 PLANES HANDED OVER

Vast Souvenir Store Left Behind Includes 75,000 Helmets, Many Giant Swords

Officers of the American receiving commission at Coblenz are today busy checking up on the war material which the Germans, according to the terms of the armistice, are handing over.

The enemy, it may be noted, is living up to the conditions of the armistice in every way, though there was one little matter having to do with motor trucks, that had to be rectified. Of that, more later.

One of the chief items being received by the American commission is airplanes, of which 200 have been received. They are machines of many sizes, makes and purposes. They are taken into Coblenz as rapidly as the Germans can get them on cars and ship them, many coming direct from the factories about Berlin. One in each 20 is tested, according to armistice regulations, by German flyers, of whom there are (or rather, were) two. One, a youth of 23 weighing 91 pounds, and claiming to be the man who shot down Quentin Roosevelt, a broken wrist fractured ribs and a broken wrist recently while making a landing after a test. The machine was wrecked. Result: A letter to the Germans requiring them to furnish another machine.

The machines must be completely equipped and in as perfect shape as they would be if a Yank flyer wanted one for work over the German lines, even to the extent of a slip of machine gun bullets.

New Type of Fokker

Some of the Fokkers being turned over are very fast and powerful, and many of them of a brand new type, heretofore not flown on any front. To register a perfect test they must make a 15-minute flight. There are also some Boloys, which the final lot of 60 contained many veterans of the western front, all Maj. Lewis Landes, Q.M.C., head of the receiving commission says, in excellent condition.

The Germans also have turned in 2,500 machine guns to the Americans, many being new and all in good condition.

But it was when they trundled out the big guns that the first hitch arose. "What's this?" asked the officers of the commission as some cannon were slipped into view. "Looks like the vintage of 1870."

"Oh, no, sir," hastily replied the German ordnance officer. "They are of 1873 model."

"Well," replied an American officer, as he waved his hand, "take 'em away. You never used many of these guns in actual battle. We want some of your modern guns, some of more recent model, and we want 150 of them, and they must be in perfect order and ready to fire, as the terms of the armistice decree."

At latest reports the guns demanded were on their way to Coblenz.

715 Motor Trucks Delivered

The American's quota of motor trucks which are being handed over is about 1,200. Of these 715 have been delivered, in good order. Of the others, 311 are in second class shape and need repairs of various kinds before they can be accepted. 250 are in such shape that the commission refuses to accept them, while 23 would make first class scrap. The Germans are now rounding up acceptable machines.

In addition, the Boche in the American area has left behind him, such vast quantities of war material, some of it used and some brand new, that it will take weeks before the commission can check over the carefully compiled list which has been turned over by the enemy. This list consists of 96 pages, 58 items to the page, all written in methodical.

Yanks on Leave Boost Pot, Garçons Walk Away With It

The Prince of Monaco may be hopping mad when he gets back to his home at Monte Carlo and finds out the Americans have run off with so much of his ivory money that five franc cartwheels with the pictures of Louis Philippe and the Napoleons are being used instead of chips on the Casino tables. In fact, the Prince may have heard the news at selling, for the word has gone out that selling chips as souvenirs to Americans is strictly defenda in the principality.

Meanwhile the exchange rate for the prince's ivory currency is rising every day, and there is a suspicion that the Monte Carlo restaurant and hotel waiters' union has been profiting. Anyway five franc chips are selling outside the Casino at six francs or more. Now the five franc ivory chip can't be bought from your hotel waiter for less than eight francs, and if you, look good it costs more.

The five franc chip is a modest looking affair, the color of a half baked meerschmaum pipe, inlaid with a band of filigree metal. There are other chips of red and green and blue and yellow, fancier ones, with face values of ten francs, 100 francs and up, but the A.E.F. has modestly refrained from investing in them.

Soldiers on leave are admitted to the Casino only between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., when there is no playing.

TWELFTH OF A.E.F. HOME OR EN ROUTE; BATTLESHIPS HELP

Total of 10,435 Officers and 140,689 Enlisted Men Have Sailed

NOT ALL NEW DEPARTURES

Many Fighting Vessels Start West With O.D. Warriors Watching Gobs Do the Work

Ten thousand, four hundred and thirty-five officers and 140,689 enlisted men of the A.E.F.—not quite one-twelfth—have sailed for the United States.

These are the latest figures from G.I.O. They include all soldiers who have left France and England since the first American troops set foot on European soil nearly 20 months ago—officers and men who went back to training camps, sick and wounded, and those who have gone since the armistice. The large proportion of officers is due to the number sent back as instructors.

Several American battleships joined the procession of home bound steamships carrying Yank troops in the last few days.

The former German liners President Grant and Agamemnon also were among the transports sailing, the President Grant carrying 5,000 men, including the 5th P.A. Brigade.

The list of late sailing includes: S.S. President Grant, 8th P.A. Brig. and Casuals; S.S. Agamemnon, 34th Inf., less 2nd Bn. and Co. M (8th Div.); 34th Trench Mortar Battery (8th Div.); T.S.S. Georgia, 9th Trench Mortar Bn.; 31th Trench Mortar Battery; U.S.S. Kansas, 7th Trench Motor Co.; 3rd Anti-Aircraft Sector; three casual companies.

S.S. Minnesota, casuals; S.S. New Amsterdam, 301st P.A. complete; 8th, 16th, and 11th Divisional Art. School detachments; casuals, sick and wounded.

S.S. Santa Teresa, 14th P.A.; casuals, sick and wounded; S.S. Santa Marta, casuals; S.S. Cape May, casuals; S.S. Sagua, casuals.

U.S.S. Seattle, 4th Anti-Aircraft Sector; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th A.A. Batteries; Medical and Ord. detachments; 8th Anti-Aircraft Sector; Hqs. and 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th A.A. Batteries; 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th A.A. Batteries; 106th Battery Trench Artillery (31st Div.); 48th Aero Construction Squadron; 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th A.A. 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