

### CHANGE TALKED OF IN 7-CENT A MILE RULE FOR OFFICERS

#### Pay Chiefs Say 1906 Law Is Unequal to Conditions in A.E.F.

### PER DIEM RATE FAVORED

#### Profits of Inspection Trips Cited—System Also Brings Losses to Some on Journeys

Proposals to rectify inequalities in the operation of the law under which officers of the A.E.F. draw seven cents a mile for railroad travel in France have originated in the finance and chief paymaster's offices, in view of figures which show that mileage claims have been increasing rapidly and now approach a half million dollars monthly.

The mileage law is intended to reimburse an officer not only for the cost of his transportation, but also for hotel bills, meals and other expenses, but finance officers point out that the present law was passed by Congress in 1906 and is based on peace-time conditions in the United States, comparatively high railroad fares, a comparatively small volume of travel and infrequent trips by individuals.

It is advocated that the regulations governing travel, as they apply to the A.E.F., be amended to provide for payment of actual transportation cost plus an adequate per diem allowance.

### Sometimes Exceed Pay

As the present law operates in the A.E.F., finance officials maintain, many officers who take frequent journeys, often of great distances, find that the mileage allowance to which they are legally entitled is many times their actual expenses. Officers have admitted that the amounts they received have exceeded their Army pay.

As an instance, there is cited the hypothetical case of an officer stationed in Paris, called to Bordeaux on a trip and returning one day after his arrival. He is entitled to draw more than 250 francs—\$50—for the round trip, although his rail fare would have been about \$7. To this must be added hotel charges for meals for one day.

On the contrary, the mileage law works actual hardship to officers called on short trips to stations where they remain many days. For instance, an officer stationed at Tours goes to Paris on service requiring several weeks. His mileage allowance of approximately \$2 falls far short of reimbursing him for his hotel and other expenses, while he probably must continue paying for quarters and possibly for meals in Tours during his absence.

### Some Like Taking Trips

While finance department officials believe that possibly the actual number of cases where officers have deliberately taken advantage of the mileage law to run up big travel accounts is small, they point out that the existing law is a temptation to do so. Mileage payments averaging \$300 a month to a second lieutenant might indicate that the lieutenant was not altogether averse to taking trips, they say.

The law gives remuneration never intended to officers whose duties take them on frequent inspection trips, short periods but comparatively great distances. An officer stationed at Tours, for instance, may set out on an inspection trip to a dozen cities or stations rather far apart. He may be traveling almost continuously, running up negligible incidental expenses.

There have been cases of inspection trips where it was suspected that the officer had mapped his route by a sort of the greatest mileage—traveling to the farthest point first, returning to a near point, then traveling to another distant station, and so on.

### WOMAN AVIATOR SEEKS MAIL JOB

#### Katherine Stinson Wants to Carry Letters Up to Third Army

If Miss Katherine Stinson, American woman aviator, has her way, mail destined for the members of the Army of Occupation, instead of heading up across the late battlefield and into the Rhine valley by train, will be carried overhead by airplane, and get there much quicker. She has volunteered to get the mail up herself.

Miss Stinson has made many notable flights in the States. Early in her career she flew from San Diego to San Francisco, Calif., without a stop, which is considerably further than from a convenient mail base in France to Coblenz. Last year she spent much time in the air demonstrating at Army training camps and flying between Washington and New York in the government mail service.

Not being able to get a flying job in France, Miss Stinson did the next best thing. She became a Red Cross chauffeur. She has been driving a docile Ford which hasn't any elevating planes and can't do anything more exciting than skid. Hearing that the train service into Germany is neither punctual nor regular, she has asked the Red Cross to ask the Air Service to give her an airplane. She promises to do the rest.

Miss Stinson is in the early twenties. She comes of a flying family, having two brothers and a sister who also are aviators.

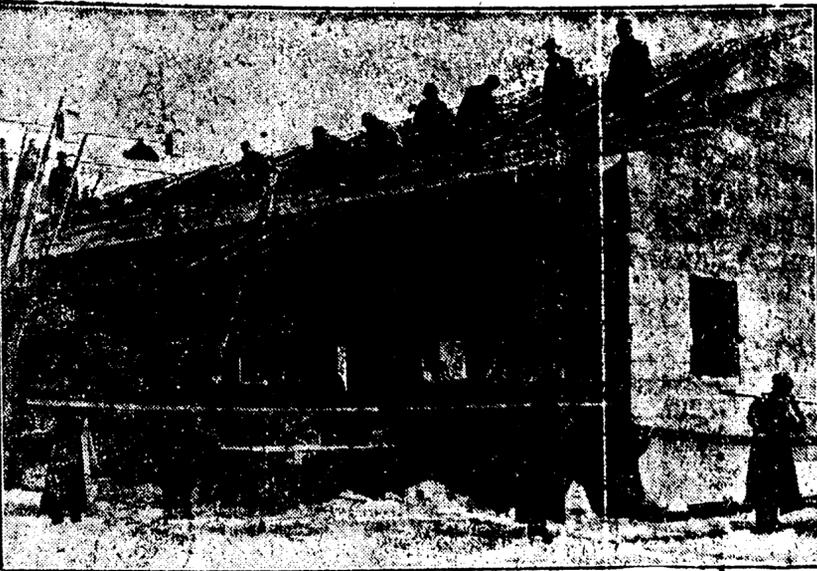
### REAL SOUVENIR HERE

The overseas cap, which has (not) proved its wearers from the rains of sunny France and the suns and snows and sets all over the A.E.F., will be permitted to remain the official headgear of the returning troops after they get back to the States.

An order permitting the retention of this piece of Q.M. issue has been announced recently in a cablegram from Washington to the Chief-of-Staff of the A.E.F.

Officers not intending to remain in the service, the cable further states, will be permitted to wear trench-coats but the Sam Browne or Liberty belt still remains taboo, according to the War Department.

## HOW AMERICAN ENGINEERS DO IT IN RUSSIA



Roofing Over One of the Barracks at Camp Michigan, Archangel, That Are Housing the Yanks Stationed on the Murman Coast.

### ARGONNE VICTORY RECORDED IN G.O.

#### C-in-C. Praises First Army, A.E.F., for "Splendid Accomplishment"

The prowess of American arms in the Meuse-Argonne battle is recorded in a general order, No. 232, just published at G.H.Q., over the signature of the Commander-in-Chief, A.E.F. The order follows:

"It is with a sense of gratitude for its splendid accomplishment, which will live through all history, that I record in General Orders a tribute to the victory of the First Army in the Meuse-Argonne battle.

"Tested and strengthened by the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, for more than six weeks you battered against the pivot of the enemy line on the Western front. It was a position of imposing natural strength, stretching on both sides of the Meuse river from the bitterly contested hills of Verdun to the almost impenetrable forest of the Argonne; a position, moreover, fortified by four years of labor designed to render it impregnable; a position held with the fullest resources of the enemy. That position you broke utterly, and thereby hastened the collapse of the enemy's military power.

"Soldiers of all the divisions engaged under the First, Third and Fifth Corps—the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82nd, 89th, 90th and 91st—you will be long remembered for the stubborn persistence of your progress, your storming of obstinately defended machine gun nests, your penetration, your heroic resistance in the face of counter-attacks supported by powerful artillery fire. For more than a month, from the initial attack of September 26, you fought your way slowly through the Argonne, through the woods and over hills west of the Meuse; you slowly enlarged your hold on the Cotes de Meuse to the east; and then, on the first of November, your attack forced the enemy into flight. Pressing his retreat, you cleared the entire left bank of the Meuse south of Sedan, and then stormed the heights on the right bank and drove him into the plain beyond.

"Your achievement, which is scarcely to be equaled in American history, must remain a source of proud satisfaction to the troops who participated in the last campaign of the war. The American people will remember it as the realization of the hitherto potential strength of the American contribution toward the cause to which they had sworn allegiance. There can be no greater reward for a soldier or for a soldier's memory.

"This order will be read to all organizations at the first assembly formation after its receipt.

"JOHN J. PERSHING,  
General, Commander-in-Chief, American Expeditionary Forces.  
Official: ROBERT C. DAVIS,  
Adjutant General."

### GONDRECOURT DEPOT TO ASSIGN OFFICERS

#### Blois Will Be Continued as Replacement Center for S.O.S. Troops

A depot for the reclassification of officers and the reassignment of surplus combat officers to duty is established at Gondrecourt by G.O. 231, G.H.Q., which provides, also, that the depot at Blois will be continued as a replacement center for S.O.S. troops and prescribes the procedure which will be followed in the cases of officers detached from combat units because of a lack of vacancies for them or other reasons, and combat officers discharged from S.O.S. hospitals.

Officers evacuated from combat units to S.O.S. hospitals who are discharged from the hospitals as Class B or Class C will be sent direct to Blois to be re-assigned to duty by the Commanding General, S.O.S., or, at his discretion, sent to the United States.

Combat officers emerging from hospitals as Class A will be sent to Gondrecourt, from where, if found unfit for immediate combat service, they will be sent to Blois for assignment to temporary duty.

In addition to sending to Gondrecourt officers for whom no vacancies exist in commands of armies, corps and divisions are authorized to relieve from duty officers who are considered unfit for combat duty. Officers thus relieved will be sent to Gondrecourt, except in cases of officers of a division serving with a corps, when they will be sent to corps headquarters.

At the time an officer is relieved a full, detailed report will be made, citing the reasons why he is considered unfit for duty. One copy of this will be placed in a sealed envelope and entrusted to the officer for delivery at Gondrecourt.

### A.E.F. SHOP TALK

Private Eugene L. Kelley has submitted his claim for the shortest period of time after joining the Army. He enlisted at Camp Mills, Long Island, on December 7, 1917, boarded a transport on December 12 and landed in France on December 23.

Artillerymen in training will not fire barrages. Ammunition allotted them will be used primarily to work out problems requiring shooting in quality rather than quantity, according to G.O. 227.

Dates for the try-outs of vaudeville acts and specialties in the Y.M.C.A. halls of the A.E.F. have been extended one week. Soldier actors wishing to enter the vaudeville star competition must secure try-outs by tomorrow.

A detachment of 20 men of Butchery Co., No. 210, doing business at Toul, claims the meat handling record of the A.E.F. In three months, during the most of which time it supplied five divisions, it unloaded, re-froze, stored and issued 2,012 tons of beef, an average of 45 tons per day.

Laundry work may be done without charge for all troops in the A.E.F. where facilities belonging to or operated by the A.E.F. are now available, says G.O. 228. The same order, however, provides that no additional facilities for clothes-cleaning will be contracted for, except as required by previous orders from G.H.Q.

The steady stream of souvenirs that threatened to swamp the A.P.O.'s and sink the transports westward board has dropped to normal again. The ebb began before Christmas, and the M.P.E.S.'s task of distributing and selling the surplus cleared. Practically all of the Christmas mail has been delivered, and only wrongly-addressed or unclaimed matter remains. Nearly everyone, it is stated, in the A.E.F. got some kind of a Christmas remembrance.

Company E of the 413th Trench Battalion claims the speed record in installing lines for the A.E.F. In the recent big push the men who wear their spurs nearer the ankle than the heel set 136 poles, six stubs, placed 68 cross-arms, gained, and framed 100 poles, the gains, strung and wired in two-wire circuit, a total of four and one-half miles of wire, dug 12 poleholes in rock, dynamiting each hole and then called it a day, forty men working.

The ban on the sale of canned fruits, chocolate, cocoa, crackers, gelatin, maple syrup and corn starch to officers and enlisted men, restricting the use of those products to hospitals only, has been lifted in the future the sale of these articles will be unrestricted in A.E.F. commissaries, according to Bulletin 100, G.H.Q.

The boy colonel of the Army is Lieut. Col. Ernest O. Thompson, machine gun officer of the 90th Division, 36 years of age. Colonel Thompson's machine guns in the advance in the Meuse-Argonne sector fired 1,550,000 rounds of ammunition, with only four guns jamming and the total time lost through the jamming of these guns was less than five minutes. Colonel Thompson permitted the gunner of each of these guns to name his particular piece after his sweetheart, his best girl or his prospect.

Soldiers embarking for the States must not take with them books from the American Library Association's collection in France, says Bulletin 98, G.H.Q., which provides that C.O.'s will take steps to see that books borrowed by members of their commands are returned to the place of issuance. The A.L.A. is providing troop transports with libraries.

If Mechanic Troy E. Mock, six feet eight inches high of Kansas and the 24th Aero Squadron, is not the tallest Yankee soldier in the A.E.F., he would like to be shown. He weighs 215 pounds and invites a company.

All C.O.'s are ordered, in Bulletin 98, G.H.Q., to punish soldiers found reselling tobacco and other commodities from auxiliary service canteens or Army exchanges to French civilians or others not entitled to buy them.

The biggest Y.M.C.A. hut in the world will be opened at St. Nazaire on February 1 when the monster hallion hangar now situated at the Navy Air Station at Pambouff will be transported to Camp 1, the chief center for homebound service troops. The hut will seat 10,000 men, will contain a theater, dirt court for indoor sports, reading room, writing room and a library.

Building material, plumbing, electrical fixtures, etc., from camps, depots and similar centers will be dismantled and salvaged by the Department of Construction and Forestry over the Q.M. or Engineer Corps for future use or disposition, according to G.O. 71.

The largest kitchen in the world is at St. Aignan-Noyers, where 35,000 men are fed every day. Twelve cooks and 97 K.P.'s serve a ton of beans a meal, 210 cattle a week, and 55,000 pounds of bread a day. Sgt. Wiley Gardner, in charge, was personally by General Pershing when he established which serves 100 men a minute, three squares a day.

The 41st Division, G.O. 71, is discontinued as a Depot Division. There will immediately be organized in the St. Aignan-Noyers district a depot for the First Replacement Depot, which will function as a casual and replacement depot for combat troops of all arms.

### ALL ROADS DO NOT LEAD INTO GERMANY

#### G.H.Q. Publishes Own Blue Book of Route to Be Followed

Visitors, whether they are members of the A.E.F. or civilians, who are contemplating automobile trips in the territory of the Third Army, will not need any blue book this season. An official route has been laid out for them. While the new document omits the names of the roadhouses and makes no mention of the condition of the paving, it is strongly recommended that it be followed by the tourist. The M.P., it might be added, will not allow him to take any other.

The routes, outlined in Bulletin 100, G.H.Q., follow:

(a) To Trier and Coblenz, via Bar-le-Duc and Luxembourg; Bar-le-Duc, Souilly, Verdun, Etain, Spincourt, Longuyon, Longwy, Luxembourg, Grevenmacher, Wasserbillig, Trier, Wittlich, Cochem, Tress, Coblenz.

(b) To Trier and Coblenz via Toul, Metz and Thionville; Toul, Pont-a-Mousson, Metz, via east or west bank of Moselle; Thionville, via east or west bank of Moselle; Trier, via Luxembourg, via west bank of Moselle, via Sierck and Saarburg; Wittlich, Cochem, Tress, Coblenz.

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### READYMADE UNIFORMS GRACE A.E.F. OFFICERS

#### Q.M. Turns Out Wool Product at 50 Per Cent Saving

American officers in Coblenz are wearing \$30 ready-made uniforms—Uncle, who made them, guarantees they are all wool but the buttons—in a land where military rank up to a few months ago had run to fancy costumes like those of the Death's Head Hussars and the shining helmeted Prussian Guards.

The officers' uniform branch of the Q.M.C., which recently opened a supply depot at Trier, says that it has now supplied new uniforms to all the officers of the Army of Occupation who needed them after months of knocking around on the Argonne and other fronts.

Thirteen sizes of the ready-made officers' uniforms are being turned out in a dozen French tailoring establishments, and the output of 450 a day is rapidly meeting the demands of officers all through France, although the Army of Occupation had first call for a while. The uniforms are of heavy English serge, and if purchased privately could not be bought for less than \$40 or \$70, Q.M.C. chiefs say.

By paying \$2 or \$3 extra officers may have their Q.M.C. uniforms made to their measurements, but the application of the methods of big American ready-made clothing makers has enabled the Army to supply from stock uniforms that really fit.

The Q.M.C. supplies the cloth and standard cutting forms to the French tailors, who make the uniforms up carefully by hand in quantity production.

### ATHLETICS AT LE MANS

Members of the A.E.F. lucky enough to be ordered home are to be given a chance to see some of the best athletes in the A.E.F. in action while waiting for the transport which is to convey them to America.

A large plot has been set aside at Le Mans by Col. H. A. Hamblin, officer in charge of the forwarding camp, which is to be used for athletics. An 18-foot ring, basketball court and gridiron have been arranged, and facilities have also been provided for wrestling, soccer and indoor baseball.

Paul C. Johnson, the athletic director, is anxious to hear from football and basketball teams, boxers and wrestlers, so that he can arrange contests. He is particularly desirous of getting in touch with the managers of the following football teams: 145th Artillery, Bordeaux Y.M.C.A.; Company D, 15th Engineers; Company B, P.E.S., A.P.O. 902; and 163rd Infantry.

Evacuation Hospital No. 49 has been assigned to Monton Hospital Center, Riviera, replacing Base Hospital No. 5, which goes out of existence.

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