The Official Newspaper of the A. E. F.

The Stars and Stripes

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

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ARMY THRICE AS LARGE AS GRANT'S WON ST. MIHIEL

Force Massed Against Salient America's Greatest Up to That Time

BATTLE PLANS IN DETAIL

Whole Maneuver Designed to Be Enveloping Operation on Grand Scale

Probably few persons, however casually they may have followed the larger events of the World War, or however little previous knowledge they may have had of the geography of Europe, when the phrase "Western Front" is mentioned, can fail to recall the two diagrammatic lines which decorated the pages of magazines and newspapers for a period of about four years.

Somewhat like the edges of a sagging curtain they hung down over the map of northern France, the upper end fastened to the coast line near the westermost corner of Belgium, the lower end similarly fastened to the frontier of Switzerland. Of the two lines, the bottom one, which sagged alarmingly in the middle toward Paris, was dotted and generally bore the label, "Farthest German Advance."

The upper line, which was solid, was drawn back somewhat toward the Belgian frontier along most of its length, but particularly in the middle. This line which, until the spring of 1918, was almost as unchanging from month to month and year to year as the dotted one, was usually labelled, "Present Battle Front."

Perhaps the most striking feature of the dotted line, less noticeably reproduced in the solid one, was the sharp kink in it just above the sag toward Paris; it was as if the falling curtain had caught on a peg there which held it up and prevented it from falling further. There was a good deal of truth in the simile because that peg was Verdun, and if the French had not gritted their teeth and set their strength to keep that peg from breaking, it is very possible that the black curtain of Hun domination might have fallen completely over western Europe.

Germans Stick at One Point

In August and September of 1914 the Germans, in their repeated tremendous efforts to take Verdun, had the fortress at one time practically surrounded on three sides; west, north and east. But they were eventually forced back completely from the western side and a few kilometers on the north and east.

At one point, however, they stuck. Bavarian troops captured the city of St. Mihiel, about 30 kilometers southeast of Verdun, forced their way across the Meuse river, on which Verdun also lies, established a small bridgehead around the suburb and hill of Chauvoncourt on the western bank, and here fixed a peg of their own which for four years remained a constant threat and embarrassment to the defenders of Verdun because upon it was hung the St. Mihiel salient.

This salient, always the sharpest inequality in the western battle front, broke forward from the general line of the front near Les Eparges, about 17 kilometers southeast of Verdun. From this village, which is on the abrupt edge of the reverse slopes of the heights of the Meuse where they drop to the plain of the Woevre, or Voivre, the western side of the salient ran almost due south for about 20 kilometers, crossing the high, forested hills and descending their western slopes into the valley of the Meuse and then crossing that river to embrace the small bridgehead directly west of St. Mihiel.

There were scarcely two square kilometers of ground within the trenches of this bridgehead, but it was large enough effectually to cut the double-track railway from Verdun to Toul which, reaching on the south to Epinal and Belfort, had, before the war, linked up the four great fortresses of the French eastern frontier.

Substitute Railroad Routes

Deprived of this extremely important line, Verdun was obliged to depend for all its rail communications upon the double-track line extending westward from Ste. Menehould, supplemented because it was so close to the front as to be subject to interruption by another, military, double-track line built in 1916 southwest from Verdun to the existing Ste. Menehould-Revigny line at Nettancourt. The substitute routes were, however, so circuitous that it was a slow process to shuttle troops back and forth by them along the eastern frontier defenses.

Crossing the Meuse again just above St. Mihiel and including in its circuit Fort du Camp des Romains, the one French fort of the line between Verdun and Toul which the Germans captured and held through most of the war, the front swung eastward, again crossing the heights of the Meuse, and descended into the plain of the Woevre at Apremont, just northeast of which rose the lofty bulk of Mont Sec, a detached hill affording artillery positions to the Germans which for miles dominated the Allied lines in the lowlands.

From Apremont the front ran on by Xivray, Seichepre, Flirey, Limey, Regnieville and Feyen-Haye and through the Foret du Bois le Pere to a point on the Moselle river just above Pont-a-Mousson, about 40 kilometers from St. Mihiel. The total length of this salient was about 65 kilometers; at its gorge between Les Eparges and Regnieville it was about 30 kilometers wide, and from the line between these two points it thrust forward from the general configuration of the front about 22 kilometers

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SQUADS EAST FOR S.O.S.

Every organization in the S.O.S. is ordered to have a one-half hour drill every day, Sundays and holidays excepted, by G. O. 7, H.Q., S.O.S. The drills are to be sharp and snappy with the idea of "getting the men back into shape as military units," the order states.

In addition to the daily drill, every S.O.S. unit is ordered to have a weekly inspection to insure that all men are clean and properly equipped and clothed. Daily inspection of quarters by company officers is also specified.

To make up for the time spent in drills and inspections, a general Saturday afternoon holiday will be observed throughout the S.O.S.

Pressing rooms where uniforms can be kept in good shape, and stands where men can clean and polish their shoes are directed to be established for each company, and shoe polish and dubbin will be supplied by the Q.M.C. Officers are ordered to pay more attention to the condition of the headgear, shoes and clothing of men under their command.

LAWD WAS GOOD TO PVT. WHITFIELD; NOW AWAITS C.M.

General Staff Colonel Does a Lot of Detective Work

Col. Robert Whitfield, of the General Staff, was more and more annoyed when month after month passed and brought no sign of the $3,000 worth of Liberty Bonds he had ordered from a bank in Arkansas. But annoyance scarcely describes the emotion he felt when the bank replied coldly that they not only had sent the bonds, but held his receipt for them.

The Colonel wrote the bankers that they were a bunch of crooks, or words to that effect, and he also got a letter to the Attorney General off his chest. The bank countered with a certified copy of the receipt, and there it was, signed "Robert Whitfield, Private, Company I, 370th Infantry."

Still somewhat ruffled, but more hopeful, Colonel Whitfield wrote a letter of inquiry to the Colonel commanding that regiment of negro Infantry which boasted a Private Whitfield. The letter arrived just when rumor was already busy as to the source of Private Whitfield's mysterious wealth.

The men of Company I had said nothing when he set them all up to the entire wine stock of the best cafe in Delle, near Belfort. But the gossips got busy when he started picking up odds and ends of fine laces and a diamond ring or so—which fripperies he posted to a lady in the South. The climax was reached when Private Whitfield bought a handsome, tastefully framed landscape painting for 300 francs and hung it over his bunk in a cow stable.

Official Wheels Start Grinding

The official inquiry then started brought to light that Private Whitfield had, as suspected, received the bonds. He had received them thrice, as a matter of act. A bit puzzled, he had tried his best to think up some rich uncle in the States who might have sent them to him, but none of his uncles was at all like that. Nor his aunts, either. So twice he mailed the bonds back. The third time, when they trailed him into the Argonne, he accepted them fatalistically. Why?

"Well, suh, Ah jes' natchully reckoned de Lawd mus' a meant to be good to me."

So Private Whitfield is now awaiting trial. The Judge Advocate is scratching his head. Whatever crime was committed, if any, it certainly was not forgery. Meanwhile, the art exhibit has vanished from the cow stable and the bank where the bonds were hypothecated has made a grab for Private Whitfield's salary, past, present and to come.

Quite a way to come, too, according to the present figuring, for it has been calculated that, with all due allowances for insurance and allotments, Private Whitfield will have to stay in the Army about 20 years in order to pay for the bonds.

Unless, of course, he is made a Quartermaster sergeant, senior grade.

SOMEONE PUT ONE OVER ON SOMEONE

Number of 9x4x3's in Excess of A.E.F.'s Strength

Another scandal!

That pathetic picture of the heroic young American, far from home and friends on a bleak Christmas day, cheated of even his tiny remembrance from home, has already been painted in the drab colors of the gloom artist. One measly little slip for one 9x4x3 that wouldn't hold—

But listen! The Postal Express Service of the A.E.F. kept a count of the number of 9x4x3's which arrived in Europe—and the total was 2,500,000, quite a good many more than there had been men to send slips home.

Ninety-six thousand mail sacks had been emptied and checked before the P.E.S. began to wonder if there were a few secret expeditions which had arrived and never been discovered. But no. It was just a simple case of more packages than men—and there isn't any explanation yet.

Incidentally, for the young-man-about-the-A.E.F. who is still wondering where his Christmas package is, it may be some consolation for him to know that one car load of 9x4x3's sitting on a siding at Bourges caught fire and burned up some weeks ago.

S.O.S. TO HAVE FIELD MEET

An S.O.S. championship field and track meet will be held at Nice, April 11, 12 and 13. On the first day the trials will be held, the semi-finals being run off the following day, and the finals on the third day.

In addition to the usual track and field events, the program calls for several interesting relay races. In an inter-sectional relay the first man will run 220 yards, the second 440, the third 880 and the fourth one mile. Two other relays that should prove interesting are the 880-yard relay, in which each man will run 220 yards, and the one mile relay, in which each runner covers 440 yards.

Teams will compete from each base, intermediate and advance section of the S.O.S. Commanding officers of these sections are authorized to grant seven-day passes to one officer and section squad, with an allowance of five additional days for traveling, so that the athletes can reach Nice by April 9.

Names of the men entered must be submitted to the athletic officer at Tours by April 1. A.A.U. rules will govern.

EX-Y.M.C.A. MEN JAILED

Three former secretaries of the Y.M.C.A. arrested last January on charges of embezzling funds entrusted to them have been found guilty by a military court-martial and sentenced to prison.

Sentence of 15 years was imposed upon George B. Schoeffel of Rochester, N. Y., and Rev. Hugh B. Atkins and J. Mansfield of New York were each given ten-year terms.

While divisional secretary of the Y.M.C.A. at Toul, Atkins appropriated for his own use 140,000 francs, most of which had been given to him by soldiers to be sent to their homes. He made restitution of a greater part of this total. Schoeffel was charged with stealing 87,000 francs.

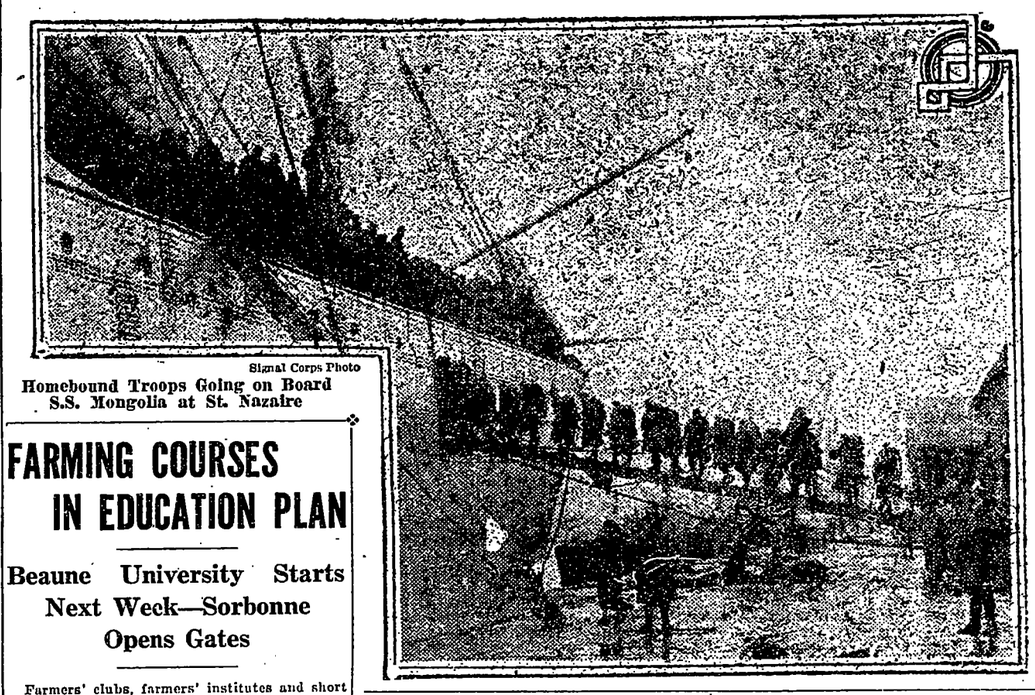
FIRST PRISONERS FREED

The first German prisoners to be freed by the Allies, 800 men of Alsatian-Lorraine descent captured by the A.E.F., are about to be released from the American prison camp at St. Pierre des Corps, near Tours, under an agreement with the French Government.

The released men will be given civilian clothing and transported free on regular French passenger trains to their old homes in redeemed Alsace and Lorraine.

The agreement with the French Government stipulates that the repatriated men will not be required to submit to military law until peace has been signed.

THE BRIDGE WHOSE WESTERN END IS AMERICA



Signal Corps Photo

Homebound Troops Going on Board S.S. Mongolia at St. Nazaire

FARMING COURSES IN EDUCATION PLAN

Beaune University Starts Next Week—Sorbonne Opens Gates

Farmers' clubs, farmers' institutes and short courses in agriculture are to be organized throughout the A.E.F. as a part of the post school system, under instructions from G.H.Q. contained in Bulletin 9.

In addition a special lecture system to cover a wide range of subjects not taught in post schools is to be established throughout the Army in France, and officers and enlisted men who are experts in specialized lines are to address Army audiences—the whole scheme being a sort of a broadened Chautauqua. Men with worth-while hobbies will be given opportunities to tell about them in their own camps and, if the lectures are particularly capable, on an Army lecture circuit.

Efforts will be made to get as many lectures as possible for the smaller billeting areas, where the facilities of post schools are less easily available.

Motion picture films and thousands of educational lantern slides will be shown in connection with lectures, following principles now recognized in schools and universities back home.

In the plans for formation of farmers' clubs, ten or more men are to form the basis of an organization which shall hold regular meetings and conduct discussions, debates and lectures. Marketing, rural credit, farm community life and the place of the farmer in national and world affairs will be subjects emphasized.

The farmers' institutes are expected to have three-day sessions, of the same general character as those given in the States. Short agricultural courses will be given at each post where the demand warrants it and the teaching staff can be recruited.

Beaune University to Open

In addition to seeing more than 150,000 soldiers actively following courses in post schools throughout France, as a part of the A.E.F. educational program, the coming week marks the opening of two great centralized Army university centers—the preparatory opening of the big camp-university at Beaune, south of Dijon, and the first lectures and classes for American soldier-students in the Sorbonne, at Paris.

Reports from all parts of the A.E.F. the past week told of increasing numbers being enrolled in the wide variety of classes of the post schools, taught by instructors of all Army grades.

In Paris scores of students for the Sorbonne began arriving last week, in response to telegraphic instructions. There will be 2,500 soldier-students in this and other seats of French learning when the allotments are completed. Attendance will be divided by studies as follows: Law, 400; letters, 650; science, 798; medicine, 150.

Most of the students in Paris will live in homes of French families.

At Beaune the week is being marked by the arrival of large numbers of the officers and enlisted men who will be instructors and students in this school center, which will have 20,000 or more in attendance. Remodeling of hospital buildings and the installation of machinery and other equipment is being rushed to completion by a large detachment of Engineers.

BASE PORTS OF A.E.F. RETURN TO FRENCH

Rouen Already Closed, Le Havre and Others Soon to Follow

Port by port Uncle Sam is closing out the greatest shipping business that any country has on foreign shores. Rouen is closed and in the hands of the French, Le Havre and Marseille are in the process of abandonment, and many others, including Tonnay-Charente, Rochefort, Marans, La Rochelle and Les Sables d'Olonne, will take care of the freight already headed their way and then say farewell to the Stars and Stripes.

At the same time comes the announcement of the first break in the line of railroad communication, the delivery of the line from Perigeux to Montiercharme to the French.

The ports mentioned above, all opened during the year 1918, have handled a total of 2,586,634 tons and employed 16,483 stevedores, in addition to civilian labor and prisoners of war. Le Havre also received 648,438 troops, La Rochelle 3,390 and Marseille 819.

The first step taken in the abandonment of a port is a notification to the French Government that the United States is ready to return the port. All freight in the port is then unloaded and the warehouses cleaned out. All stevedore material is shipped to Bassens, near Bordeaux. A great deal of material is being sold to the French.

The plan of the Transportation Department is now to concentrate on the three main ports of Bordeaux, St. Nazaire and Brest, and consequently on the one main line of railroad communications from St. Nazaire to Is-sur-Tille, with branches coming in from Bordeaux and Brest. With the constantly diminishing number of troops in the A.E.F. to supply and with the opening of Rotterdam and Antwerp, this can be done easily without causing congestion.

The following figures show the total tonnage handled by each of the ports about to be closed, with their dates of opening:

Rouen, opened May 1, 1918	209,726 tons
Le Havre, Feb. 1, 1918	544,453 tons
Tonnay-Charente and Rochefort, Feb. 20, 1918	517,669 tons
La Rochelle and Marans, Jan. 2, 1918	774,554 tons
Marseille, July 9, 1918	487,801 tons
Les Sables d'Olonne, Aug. 28, 1918	52,726 tons

BIG RIFLE MATCH FOR WHOLE A.E.F. PLANNED IN MAY

Grand Scale Competition to Be Held on Range Near Le Mans

All the rifle and pistol carrying forces of the A.E.F. will be represented in a rifle and pistol competition and musketry match to be conducted on a spectacular scale early in May at the D'Auvours Rifle Range, near Le Mans.

One soldier from each Infantry and Engineer company and each Cavalry troop throughout the whole Army in France will take part in the rifle competitions in addition to officers representing regiments and various headquarters. Four soldiers from each Infantry and Artillery regiment, two from each Engineer regiment and one from each Cavalry troop will take part in pistol championship events. Two officers from each regiment will also enter the competitions.

The musketry matches, which probably will be the most spectacular of all the shooting events, will bring into competition platoons representing every division. Each division will send its prize platoon of 58 men and an officer leader. The platoons will not be specially formed of selected men from their divisions, but each will have its regular personnel. Transfers to "load up" any platoon with experts are prohibited under Bulletin 7, G.H.Q., which announces the arrangements for the A.E.F. tournament.

Under Field Conditions

In the musketry competitions the platoons will operate under field conditions. No details of firing will be made known in advance to the platoon leaders, and each platoon will advance as in an attack during real battle, to be confronted with the conditions under which it must demonstrate its ability. Judging will be on the formations adopted, the estimate of the tactical situation, the application of firing and general conduct.

Officers and soldiers will be awarded medals according to their standings in the various individual events. The winning platoons in the musketry match will be awarded a trophy, and the men in the platoon will be given bronze medals.

Elimination matches are to be held in all organizations eligible to send representatives to the competition. Each division will have a competition to select the platoon that will represent it in the musketry match. In addition to Infantry, Engineer and Cavalry units, marksmen may be sent for both the rifle and pistol competitions by other units armed with rifles and pistols, rifle units to send one man for each 200 men under arms, pistol and revolver armed organizations to send one man for each 100 men so armed.

Under G.O. 27, G.H.Q., every company will devote approximately 70 hours of its time between March 17 and May 2 to musketry training.

BOOKS BY MAIL TO A.E.F.

Any soldier in the A.E.F. may obtain two books by mail, whether he is stationed on the Rhine or in the Mediterranean or billeted in a village in Burgundy, by the simple process of writing a letter or postcard, naming the books he wants, to the American Library Association, 10 Rue de l'Elysee, Paris. In writing he is expected to name second and third choices for each book asked for.

The library association expects 100,000 soldiers to write for books in the coming month. In the same month it expects to establish 1,000 separate new libraries for American units scattered through France.

In addition to mailing books to individual soldiers, the American Library Association has undertaken to help furnish the books needed for the post schools established by the Army Educational Commission. The association has prepared a catalogue of 1,000 books, classified according to subjects from practical treatises on motion picture machines, dairying, printing and plumbing to works on astronomy and Gothic cathedrals.

INSIGNIA TO STAND

Divisional insignia can be worn in the United States by officers and men returning to be mustered out of the service. The Secretary of War says so. The following instructions on the subject have been received at General Headquarters:

"The Secretary of War directs that Circular 18, War Department, 1919, be amended to make it clear that all officers and men returning from overseas for the purpose of discharge, either with units or casuals, will be permitted to wear divisional insignia. This will apply not only to those who are in divisions but to those who return as casuals to hospitals. Casuals returning from overseas for active duty in United States will be required to remove their insignia."

CABLE IS AWAITED FOR DISPOSITION OF 70,000 GRAVES

Instructions for Assembly Expected Daily from War Department

Cable instructions are expected daily from the War Department in the States in regard to the assembly and final disposition of America's 70,000 graves in Europe.

"The final disposition of bodies will be considered and executed as an entire project, at such time, probably after the conclusion of peace, as the vastness and difficulty of this almost inconceivable task may make possible." So the authorities announced in the midst of the war, and despite the fact that it was also announced that "return of bodies to the United States will be made in due time except in cases where a specific request to the contrary is made," this, the assurance that there will be a summing up and final disposition of the dead as a great singled out task, is the only definite answer that the Government at this moment can give to this question. In fact, the matter of the final disposition of the American dead is now in the hands of Congress. So far, no dead have been returned to the United States.

Indications are that Congress will finally provide for the return of all bodies desired returned, but that at least a half of our dead, by the preference of those concerned, will rest permanently in France.

In the meantime, the A.E.F. is gathering its dead together, that in death they may be as they were in life—in serried ranks, shoulder to shoulder, comrades. From frozen dugouts, from old ruins, from those hastily improvised and now sunken openings in the ground that were shell holes and battle graves, from wheat field and river bank and meadow knoll, from all of the thousands of places of isolation and great loneliness, the dead are being tenderly lifted and borne to take their places in the ordered ranks of the Army.

4,000 at Work on Problem

To this task the Government is now devoting the services of more than 4,000 soldiers. They are called the "Graves Registration Service," and they are a part of that vast prosaic and mundane organization known as the Quartermaster Corps. There is nothing spectacular in the work of these men, nothing with the thrill of the heroic, no anticipation of applause. Digging up old graves, often being forced to wear gas masks, prying in old dugouts and shell holes, searching bodies for some mark of identity, carrying the remains to the nearest cemetery, burying, marking and reporting them—there is not a great deal in this service to allure or, seemingly, to inspire.

Yet, story after story is going the rounds of how this little group here or that little group there not only did all they were told to do and all that was expected of them, but actually disregarded the Army and went ahead and added those touches that they knew would comfort and please the people at home.

For example, there was a little group who gathered together, identified and buried more than a thousand isolated bodies at Poisy on the Aisne. The graves were marked off in the regulation plots of 208 each and graded and marked with crosses. The gravel paths as called for in the standardized blue-prints of the G.R.S. were laid off. And so far as the Army was concerned, the job was done.

But these soldiers would not have it so. They went through pile after pile of salvage and found a lot of iron rails; they begged or borrowed cement from the neighboring region, and put a fence of concrete and iron around that little cemetery. Then they searched in the near-by wood for the tallest, straightest tree in all that region, cut it down, stripped it, painted it white, and planted it deep down in the heart of the field of honor. Around its base they planted flowers and from its mast they swung to the breeze the flag.

It is not easy to speak of the dead in terms of cards and maps. And yet, at the central office of the Graves Registration Service at Tours, the question of our dead is carefully and patiently being worked out to answer with just these things, thousands of them. There are maps that show every grave to the exact inch in the large assembly of cemeteries far back of the lines, and there are cards of record to which, at a moment's notice, a clerk can turn and give the whole history of a grave.

This part of the work is well in hand. It is in the battle areas that most of the work remains to be done.

Twelve Areas in France

The whole of France has been divided into three advances and nine other areas, including base and intermediate sections and the District of Paris. These areas are cut into numbered blocks of six kilometers square, and again subdivided into lots a kilometer square. Units from the Graves Registration Service are covering every square kilometer of the terrain thoroughly, collaborating with old records in confirming and establishing graves, discovering in all kinds of out-of-the-way places new graves never reported, searching in every conceivable

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DIVISIONS WILL GO HOME IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL HERE

General Policy on Sailing Priority Announced by G.H.Q.

FIGURES FOR FOUR MONTHS

27th, 30th, 85th, 37th and 91st Due to Sail in March—Some Exceptions Made

Divisions of the A.E.F. will be returned to the United States in the order of the arrival of their respective Divisional Headquarters in France.

This information was telegraphed this week by G.H.Q. to all Divisional Commanders in France and is confirmed in G.O. 35.

Based on the shipping estimates and assuming that conditions do not change, the divisions will be returned to the States in the following order:

March: 27th, 30th, 85th, 37th and 91st.
April: 26th, 77th, 82nd, 35th and 42nd.
May: 32nd, 28th, 33rd, 80th and 78th.
June: 89th, 90th, 29th and 79th.

General exceptions to the rule of return in the order of arrival are made in the case of divisions having Regular Army designations. Special exceptions will only be made in cases where availability of rail and sea transportation, location relative to ports, or the controlling military situation makes changes advisable.

Combat troops not assigned to a division will be returned in the order in which their services can be spared. Troops in the S.O.S. and in labor battalions will also be returned when their services can be spared, but so far as possible the new policy will be to release them for return in the order they arrived in France.

Confirming the estimate of the speed with which troops are likely to be returned, made last week by Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, Commanding General, S.O.S., the new G.O. gives the following figures for the next four months' sailings as forecast by probable shipping capacity:

March, 212,000; April, 221,000; May, 248,000, and June, 270,000.

These figures, however, as pointed out last week by General Harbord, are subject to variations from causes that cannot be forseen.

G.O. 35 does not affect units which are now awaiting immediate transportation to the United States. A schedule of divisions to be returned after July 1 will be issued later, the order states.

All told, 14 divisions already have gone out of existence as divisional units so far as the A.E.F. is concerned. These are the 76th, 39th, 87th, 84th, 86th, 34th, 31st, 38th, 8th, 93rd, 40th, 41st, 83rd and 92nd. The headquarters of all these have proceeded home.

The 92nd and 93rd were composed of colored troops. The 93rd never saw action as a unit, its regiments having been in service with the French. Most of the others are replacement divisions which were greatly reduced by the transfer of personal to other units.

MORE THAN SIXTH OF A.E.F. HAS NOW LEFT FOR HOME

Troops sailing for home in the week ending February 19 numbered 916 officers and 17,258 enlisted men, of whom 388 officers and 4,970 enlisted men were classed as casuals. Artillery units followed casuals in the numerical order of those sailing with 108 officers and 4,207 enlisted men. Forty-six Infantry officers and 1,724 Infantrymen were also included in the totals. Departures now total 357,040 or more than one-sixth of the A.E.F.'s Armistice Day strength.

It was learned this week that the German liner Imperator, one of the German ships which will transport Americans home, will not be available as soon as was expected.

Mud, which fought impartially for and against both sides in the land warfare from Flanders to the Vosges, has shown that it can take a hand on the sea also. River deposits have erected a barrier at the mouth of the Elbe which holds the Imperator in blockade at Hamburg until dredges have cleared the channel.

Another development this week of the troop return situation deals with officers and men returning to the States under travel orders issued in the A.E.F. These soldiers are not going to be left under the illusion that the dozen inspections in the embarkation camps, the bathing and delousing formalities and all the other incidents of their leavetaking in France will enable them to step into a taxicab a few moments after their transport docks at Hoboken.

Under instructions from the War Department, all travel orders issued for soldiers who are returning to report to specific officers or places for specific duty will contain this clause:

"Compliance with this order after arrival in the United States is subject to such delays as may be imposed by the authorities at the port of debarkation in accordance with orders from the War Department relative to debarkation, disinfection, quarantine and demobilization."

Among Those Sailing

Recent sailings include the following vessels and units:—

S.S. Niagara, casuals; S.S. West Coast, casuals; S.S. Westport, casual officers; U.S.S. Powhatan, 46th Art., C.A.C., Det. 335th Fld. Art., Bty. I, 47th Art., C.A.C., Det. 336th Fld. Art., casuals; U.S.A.T. Burford, Det. 63rd Art., C.A.C., casuals; S.S. Santa Marta, Base Hosps. 22 and 23; S.S. Sierra, 312th Ammn. Tr., casuals; S.S. Lake Casper, casual officers; S.S. Ceylon Maru, casual officers; S.S. El Occidente, casuals; S.S. Cartago, Dets. Base Hosps. 43 and 41; casuals; s.s. Mexican, Det. 71st Art., C.A.C., 23rd, 31st, 149th, 151st, 153rd, 176th, 184th, 247th, 261th, 469th; 347th, 499th and 506th Aero Sqds.; S.S. Westlake, casuals.

U.S.S. Mani, 350th Fld. Art., casuals, sick and wounded; U.S.S. Olympic, 317th San. Tr., 363th Inf., casuals, sick and wounded; U.S.S. Michigan, 105th and 307th Tr. Mort. Btys., casuals; S.S. Frederick, 1,000th, 835th, 103rd, 95th, and 465th Aero Sqds., 162nd Inf., and casuals; S.S. Rochester, 467th Aero Sqd. and casuals; S.S. Vedoc, 54th Art. Corps and casuals; U.S.S. Ohio, 1st Anti-Aircraft Sect. and

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NO AFTERNOON DRILLS

No more regular afternoon drills for the troops of the A.E.F.

Except when maneuvers or exercises of large units are taking place, purely military work will customarily be finished by noon, it is directed in G. O. 27, G.H.Q. The new order states further that afternoons will be devoted chiefly to athletics and educational activities.

The order also specifies that beginning March 1 the training of troops will proceed under programs and schedules prepared by division or similar commanders. Corps commanders will be permitted to reserve not to exceed four days a month for divisional or corps terrain exercises or maneuvers.

Q.M. TO TAKE OVER Y.M.C.A. CANTEENS; TRANSFER IN MARCH

Organization Asks Change After 18 Months of Operation

20 MILLIONS OF SUPPLIES

Auxiliary Assumed Charge of Exchanges in August, 1917, at C.-in-C.'s Request

Canteens and post exchanges in the A.E.F. heretofore operated by the Y.M.C.A. are to be taken over by the Army. The transfer will take place as soon as arrangements can be completed, probably next month.

The personnel of the Y.M.C.A. now engaged in canteen work will be retained in France and will be utilized for other purposes designed to benefit men of the A.E.F. The canteens, when taken over by the Army, will be operated by the Quartermaster Corps.

These facts were made public in statements issued at G.H.Q. and at Y.M.C.A. headquarters this week.

It is stated in letters also given out that the Y.M.C.A. undertook the organization of the A.E.F. canteen system 18 months ago at the request of General Pershing, and that the Army is now taking over the post exchange business at the request of the Y.M.C.A., made soon after the signing of the armistice and renewed on January 29.

It is estimated by the Y.M.C.A. that the transfer of the system involves canteen supplies now on hand valued at $20,000,000.

G.H.Q.'s statement upon the transfer, under date of February 25, follows:

"As soon as arrangements can be perfected for the opening of Army exchanges the Y.M.C.A. will cease to be responsible for the canteen service in the A.E.F. This transfer will probably take effect in March.

"In August, 1917, the Y. M. C. A. was asked to assume charge of canteen work for the Army. A question of exchanges for our troops in the field was considered one of prime importance, these exchanges being rated as necessities rather than luxuries. The establishment of canteens by the organizations themselves was discontinued because officers and men would be taken away from their vital functions of training and fighting.

Tonnage Difficulties

"The tonnage which could be allotted to the Y.M.C.A. for transport of supplies from the United States was far short of the amount requested. Realizing that deliveries under the circumstances could not meet the needs of the Y.M.C.A., the Y.M.C.A. set about supplementing the amount of supplies sent from the United States.

"A purchasing department was organized and instructions were issued to utilize to the maximum, the domestic market of France, Italy, Switzerland and Spain. Associations were also entered into with the French Ministry and French manufacturers, resulting in the reopening of 46 definite factories which had been closed following the French decree closing up candy and pastry factories.

"An agreement for the taking over of the Y.M.C.A. factories and warehouses, to take effect January 1, 1919, was entered into between the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F., and Mr. Carter, head of the Y.M.C.A., and arrangement made whereby the Y.M.C.A. would purchase direct from the Q.M.C.; in spite of all efforts, however, the Y.M.C.A. was unable to secure the necessary supplies.

"Army personnel and transportation are now available for this work. The Y.M.C.A. will be relieved from the heavy burden, and many of the personnel will be used for other purposes. Officers at G.H.Q. and in the Chief Q.M.'s office are now working on plans for the new system of exchanges."

Following is the Y.M.C.A.'s statement:

"Soon after America entered the war the Army asked the Y.M.C.A. to take over the post exchange service, thereby releasing many officers and men for the functions of training and fighting. The Y.M.C.A. took over the post exchange work as a patriotic duty, as part of its work of service to the American soldier.

"It was a difficult task. The Association foresaw this, but America had called and the 'Y' answered.

Conflict in Prices

"One phase in particular of the post exchange work promised and caused trouble. It was the conflict in prices between Army canteens and the post exchanges operated by the Y.M.C.A.

"By law an Army canteen, no matter where located, sells all goods at factory cost price. The Y.M.C.A. was authorized by the Army to operate its canteens on a self-sustaining basis. It was directed by the War Work Council that this be done by selling at cost price plus transportation, insurance and an allowance to cover loss or damage of goods.

"This meant that the Army could sell a package of Piedmont cigarettes for, say, 15 centimes. That was their cost price in the United States. The Y.M.C.A., paying the Army's selling price for the package of Piedmont cigarettes, had to sell them, for, say, 25 centimes. The difference represented transportation, plus insurance, etc.

"The matter of ocean transport was a costly proposition. There might be mentioned two shiploads in particular of the many the Y.M.C.A. brought to France, paying sometimes as high as $200 a ton for freight space.

"These two shiploads came to Marseille. Their cargoes totalled $250,000 in value. The freight was $150,000. The insurance was $15,000. This was prior to August, 1918, when the submarine menace loomed large. The high freight rate—which did not include inland transportation on either side of the ocean—plus the high insurance rate on these two cargoes necessitated a high selling price.

"The scarcity of ocean tonnage operated in another way to make the selling prices high at Y.M.C.A. post exchanges. When the association took over the work, it asked for ship space of 224 tons a month for each unit of 25,000 men. This request was based on careful estimates.

"War's exigencies prevented the Y.M.C.A. from being allotted what it asked. Up to a late period in 1918, the Y.M.C.A. received an average allotment of but 78 tons a month for each unit of 25,000 men.

"To supply this lack, the Association took over 46 factories in France. These turned out per month 10,000,000 bars of chocolate and 12,000,000 packages of sweet biscuit in round figures.

"Also the association bought in France, Great Britain, Spain, Italy and Switzerland great quantities of supplies for the post exchanges.

"War conditions made prices of supplies and labor very high. This increased, of course, the