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The Stars and Stripes

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

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DEFENSE BROKEN IN FINAL LUNGES AT LINE OF MEUSE

Terrible Price Exacted in 27 Days of Fighting Up to November 1

GREAT PROGRESS AT FINISH

Pre-Armistice Attack Saw American Armies Push Through Last Obstacles to Complete Victory

The results of the bitter and uninterrupted fighting of the 27 days between October 4 and November 1 on the American front were of the highest value, as the sequel showed, but they had also been terribly costly. To an army depleted in reserves of men or material the cost, indeed, might well have proved so great that the offensive would have had to come to a halt short of complete and final success.

In fact, by exacting the utmost effort from their adversaries for every meter of ground gained, the Germans were undoubtedly striving to bring about this result in their undeniably magnificent defense during the period mentioned, for, with greatly inferior numbers, their hope was to exhaust the forces of the Allies.

During the whole period, however, and in every theater of war, events had been going against them with disastrous rapidity. Continuing his superb maneuvering of masses in a ceaseless succession of blows, Marshal Foch on October 8 directed a freshly co-ordinated effort on the part of the British armies between Cambrai and St. Quentin and the French armies south of them, and these forces pushed eastward through the enemy's defensive lines with a rapidity which was accelerated on October 14, when the Army Group of the King of the Belgians took up the offensive in Flanders.

On the 17th, General Birdwood's Fifth British Army captured Lille, thus destroying the great holding point of the whole German front in the direction of the sea, and before the end of the month the Belgian coast and all the part of that country west of the Scheldt was released, while further south, in France, all of the first and most of the second German defense systems had fallen and the enemy was in retirement toward the line of the Meuse. Tens of thousands of prisoners and irreplaceable quantities of material had come into the hands of the Allies during the course of the fighting.

Turkey and Austria Out

In more distant fields, Turkey surrendered on October 31, and at the same time the mighty Austrian armies, attacked on the Piave and the Trentino on the 24th and broken on the 29th by inferior numbers of Italians, were melting down in the swiftest and most overwhelming collapse which has ever befallen the military power of a nation.

On the important section of the front between Metz and Reims, where the American and the Fourth French Armies were operating, the situation on November 1, in relation to the enemy's defensive lines, was about as it was further west and north, except that, lying across or directly in front of the Kriemhilde Stellung, which was still unbroken in many places, the Allied armies there were much closer than elsewhere to the Germans' vital railway line through Metz, Mezières and Valenciennes.

The constantly increasing American forces had been divided on October 10 into two armies—the First, which retained the front between the Meuse and the Argonne, being placed under the direct command of Lieut. Gen. Hunter Liggett, while the newly-created Second Army, lying from about Les Eparges along the front of Metz, was given to Lieut. Gen. Robert Lee Bullard.

The portion of the First Army east of the Meuse, consisting largely of French divisions under American Army command, had taken the offensive about October 8 and was fighting its way north and east from Verdun, relieving the flank of the troops west of the Meuse so as to enable them, in turn, to pass that river still further north and to reach and cut the vital railway line in the vicinity of Montmédy.

West of the Argonne, the Fourth French Army during all of October had been about ten kilometers further ahead than the American Army on its side of the forest. The general plan now was to attack the plateau and forests north of the Aire, which were virtually a continuation of the Argonne plateau and which we may call, for the sake of simplicity, the Bourgogne massif, by the same method which had already proved successful in reducing the Argonne; that is, by driving salients northward on both sides of the massif and strangling out its defenders.

On Toward the Meuse

The French, already holding the line of the Aisne everywhere westward from Yoncq, and a front of several kilometers east of that river on the edge of the Bourgogne massif, were to push eastward into the forest and northward toward Le Chesne, Chemery and the Meuse at Sedan and Mézières.

The Americans, making a special effort to break through the remaining portion of the Kriemhilde Stellung between Landres-et-St. Georges and the Bois de Bourgogne, were to exploit such a break-through eastward to and beyond the Meuse at Dun and Stenay, and westward to the edge of the Bois de Bourgogne at Briquenay and Châtillon-sur-Bar, coming into liaison with the French on the latter flank and enveloping the Bourgogne massif on the north.

Standing from right to left on October 30, the American divisions from the Meuse to the Bois de Bourgogne were the 5th, 90th, 89th, 42nd, 82nd and 78th. Before the morning of November 1 the line was altered to the extent of introducing the 2nd Division, which had received a brief rest after its fighting at Blanc Mont under the command of the Fourth French Army, in the place of the tired 42nd Division in front of Landres-et-St. Georges, and the 80th Division in place of the tired 82nd Division northeast of St. Juvin, while the 77th Division went in for the second time between the 80th and the 78th by taking over the portion of the sector of the latter division facing Champigneulles and the valley of the Argon river.

The Germans on October 30 had ten divisions in line between the Meuse and the west edge of the American sector, the five east of Landres-et-St. Georges belonging to General von der Marwitz's Vth Army, of the Army Group of General von Gallwitz, and the five west of that point belonging to General von Einem's IIIrd Army, of the Army Group of the German Crown Prince.

Artillery Beats Own Record

The comparatively long period of virtual stabilization or very gradual advance which had been imposed upon the American

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WALLY: HIS CARTOONS OF THE A.E.F.

No mail orders for the book, "Wally: His Cartoons of the A.E.F." can be filled by THE STARS AND STRIPES, as there are no more of these books on hand at the Paris office.

The books will be sold by Field Agents of THE STARS AND STRIPES, and by Army canteens and French news dealers throughout the A.E.F. until their supply now on hand is exhausted.

NEIN; P.W.'S DIDN'T GET LEAVES TO U.S. BEFORE CAPTORS

Heinies Who Claimed to Have Done So Hereby Shown Up

Pity the poor P.W.'s. They came so near having a whale of a good time.

They almost got leaves to the United States, in preference to the A.E.F., which, of course, having already seen the country, would be gentlemanly enough to stand aside and give somebody else the advantages of a liberal education. They almost got to Milwaukee, a fact which makes us shudder to think of the vast amount of beer they almost consumed. Oh, the gay life they almost led!

The only trouble was that they didn't.

Nobody knew anything about this burst of generosity on the part of embarkation port officials or transport crews until the American Red Cross at Berne, Switzerland, received a letter from the Verein Vom Roten Kreuz in Frankfort-Am-Main. The V.V.R.K.I.F.A.M. was decidedly worried. It appeared that they had been receiving letters of inquiry from the German public asking whether German prisoners of war in American custody had been transferred from France to America. They answered these in the negative until they began to have their doubts, for:

"We had the other day the visit of a German prisoner who has returned from the C.P.W.E. No. 1 in France to Germany, and who states that together with about 200 fellow prisoners he was taken over to New York for a trip at the end of November. . . . It is also rumored that a great number of German prisoners in American hands have been taken over to Chicago.

"Some relatives of German combatants who are still reported missing have now been to this office stating that they presume their missing have been taken over to the States and have not been given an opportunity to report themselves."

It appears that not all the war-time liars in the world are confined to the A.E.F.

But there's one consolation for these gentlemen who almost got to God's country—but didn't. They'll never know what they missed.

WOUNDED? WHY-ER ONLY IN PRIDE, SIR

But What C.-in-C. Said is Not Recorded in History

Living up to the record of your uniform is some job sometimes, as one buck private learned during a conversation with the Commander-in-Chief when the latter reviewed the 4th Division recently.

As the general was making his rounds he stopped before a man wearing a wound stripe.

"Where were you wounded?" asked General Pershing.

"At Soissons, sir."

A little farther down the line he stopped again.

"Where were you wounded?" he asked.

"Wou-unded?" replied the soldier, with some surprise, unconsciously looking himself over for blood. Just then his eye caught a gold chevron on his right sleeve and he snapped back to attention.

"Borrowed the overcoat, sir," he answered.

The general passed on.

DEMOBILIZATION RUSHED IN STATES

48 Hours from Full Pack to Cits Is Aim for Returned Yanks

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES]

AMERICA, April 10.—A.E.F. outfits back once more in God's country are now being demobilized and started on their way home in groups, frequently within 48 hours after reaching the demobilization camp. That is, provided the outfit is not consumed with a passion to march down Main street in a glorious home-coming victory parade. In that case, getting back to mother's cooking is delayed a matter of two or three weeks or so, according to the time of the arrival of the last elements of the outfit at some handy seaport on this side of the Atlantic.

The 27th Division demobilization was delayed three weeks because of the great parade in New York, but within two days after the division had been concentrated at the demobilization camp at Yaphank, men were being discharged by thousands. Hereafter no outfit will be held in service for a parade unless the great majority of its members so wishes.

Outfits are to be sent immediately after landing to the demobilization camps and the men discharged with the quickest expedition. This is provided by orders of the War Department. The condition of the unit's paper work on arrival in America, of course, has an important bearing on the quick return to long trousers and "have another" greetings of old cronies.

Nobody is loving the casual, either in France or in America. They are not expected to parade, and many casual companies are mustered out of service almost as soon as they reach the demobilization camp.

JAZZ STUFF COMING OVER

The A.E.F. is going to be up to the last minute on Broadway ragtime when it reaches Hoboken, for troops in France are to hear the same new music that is being played throughout the United States.

A big shipment of band music has just been received from the United States and the Q.M.C. is distributing it in sets of 78 selections to all authorized bands in the A.E.F.

Another shipment of band music is expected soon. Bands will be furnished lists of the selections in this lot and permitted to purchase new music up to the limit of their money allowance for this purpose.

TANKS, MESS KITS, GUNS, ALL FIGURED IN ORDNANCE TASK

Distributed and Repaired 32,000 Different Kinds of Articles

7,000,000 SHELLS AT ENEMY

Four and a Half Million Rounds More Waiting in Dumps When Boche Quit

This is the fifth of a series of articles dealing with the activities of the major branches of service in the A.E.F. The work of the Medical Corps will be summarized in next week's issue.

Out of the babel of tongues heard on the battlefields of the late war there was a language known and respected of all men, a language that needed no interpreter, a language in which friend and enemy alike held parley day and night across No Man's Land—the language of the guns.

History will record that it was in this language that America gave her answer to the Imperial German Government—gave it in the form of 175,000 tons of hot steel and high explosives and one billion rounds of small arms ammunition.

And there was never such a talking machine as the American Army. "We shot away stuff so fast that our Allies thought we were crazy," says a report of the last month's campaign. "The fighting energy of our troops at the front," says another military leader, "upset every calculation."

It fell to the Ordnance Department of the A.E.F. to keep this machine going. This meant the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance and repair of 32,000 different classes of articles ranging all the way from the great lumbering caterpillar tank to the well-known mess-kit, and including all offensive and defensive arms and ammunition, from the great guns and howitzers, hurling shells of nearly a ton in weight, down to the small but deadly trench or knuckle-knife.

Fireworks Theirs Also

It called for not only machine guns, automatic rifles and small arms, but tanks, tractors, trailers and mobile repair shops. New conditions of warfare added a considerable list of unfamiliar ordnance devices, such as drop bombs, incendiary darts, grenades and pyrotechnics.

To sum up best the achievements of the Ordnance Department is to say that it has met the demands thus made upon it, though they were multiplied by hugely increased schedules of troop sailings to France, by greatly accelerated programs of military offensives, and by expenditures of ammunition by the American forces enormously exceeding the estimates based upon French and British experience.

From the beginning the policy of the department was based on large and liberal lines. "There are troops in France and we must give them what they want. If they ask for elephants, give them elephants," was the dictum passed along, and it was faithfully adhered to.

On November 11, 1918, the Ordnance Department had actually placed on the American lines 3,500 cannon of all calibers, which, during periods of great artillery activity, were actually handing Jerry 6,000 tons of hot steel every 24 hours. These guns took 7,000,000 shots at the enemy.

There were also on that day 2,000 trench mortars helping to make things miserable for the retreating enemy and 2,000,000 hand grenades ready to throw. And more than 100,000 machine guns and automatic rifles re-enforced the fire of the million service rifles the doughboys were peppering the Boche with on that eventful day.

Nor was this all. There was more and aplenty where this came from. Cleverly

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GIN HITS PROW, AND BARGE HITS WAVES

First of Rotterdam Laden Chow-Scows Off to Coblenz Amid Much Din

Never was the launching of an ocean liner or a battleship accompanied with more ceremony and noise than attended the send-off given to the first barge to leave Rotterdam, Holland, laden with foodstuff and supplies for the American soldiers in Coblenz, and at the same time, marking the successful materialization of the project to use Holland as a supply depot for the Third Army. Lack of champagne did not interfere with the bottle breaking ceremony without which a launching would never be complete, for, in the absence of the sparkling stuff, a bottle of good old Holland gin did the trick and was smashed over the bow as the barge pulled away, Coblenz-bound.

The whole detachment of American soldiers and officers in Rotterdam, several hundred in all, were at the pier to bid bon voyage to soldiers who had been chosen to make the trip and a crowd of some 500 Dutch civilians were also in attendance, adding their bit to the noise and the excitement. If a prize had been given for the unit making the biggest demonstration, it would have been easily won by the men of the Motor Transportation Corps, who brought all their horns and motors into play and made the occasion sound like a New Year's Eve celebration in the States.

Messages Painted on Boxes

Painted on the boxes that made up this first cargo were all sorts of messages from the Rotterdam Yanks to their buddies up the Rhine. One of the boxes contained this inscription, written by an ingenious amateur sign painter: "Rotterdam will feed you as long as Uncle Sam needs you!" Another sign read: "We're in Dutch! But without us, the whole Third Army would be in Dutch."

The occasion was distinguished by an informal speech delivered by Col. Charles C. Weybrecht, in command of the Rotterdam detachment.

"The work you men are doing here," declared Col. Weybrecht, "lacks the glamor and glory that goes to troops in combat, but, at the same time, the value of your services is inestimable. You have worked diligently and hard. We now have established here a huge storehouse for our men in Germany and it is to Rotterdam that the whole Third Army now looks for its subsistence and comfort."

The trip of this first barge will be followed by hundreds upon hundreds of others which will ply up and down the Rhine between Rotterdam and Coblenz.

President Wilson's Own Games Trophy

AMERICAN LEGION EFFECTS LIAISON WITH HOME TROOPS

Committees to Co-Operate in Laying Plans for First Convention

Liaison is rapidly being established between the American Legion in France and the similar association of veterans of the war now being formed in the United States. At the meeting of the executive committee in Paris on Monday, steps were taken so that full co-operation will be assured, in anticipation of the great convention which will be held in the States this fall.

Constructive work in perfecting that branch of the Legion which still remains on this side of the Atlantic was started early in the meeting by the appointment of a committee of five to bring in plans for permanent organization. The committee reported immediately after the opening of the afternoon session with its recommendations, most of which were adopted, either in the original or in a revised form.

In accordance with its organization, the present temporary officers—Col. Milton J. Foreman, president; Lieut. Col. George A. White, secretary, and Maj. Richard C. Patterson, assistant secretary—will be made permanent until the executive committee shall be merged into the executive committee in the United States.

The officers were authorized to appoint a sub-committee of 15 to draw up a tentative constitution and formulate rules for the election of territorial delegates, as well as to make a choice in behalf of the troops in France of a time and place for the first national convention of the American Legion. President Foreman will cable the president of the executive committee in the United States, notifying him of the appointment and duties of this committee.

The personnel of the committee, as announced the day after the meeting, is as follows: Col. Bennett C. Clark, 35th Division, chairman; Brig.-Gen. William G. Price, Jr., 28th Division; Lt.-Col. Stuart H. Janney, 79th Division; Lt.-Col. D. G. Stivers, 3rd Division; Capt. Ogden Mills, Paris Command; Lt.-Col. H. J. Turner, 37th Division; Lt.-Col. G. E. Buxton, 82nd Division; Lt.-Col. Ruby Garrett, 42nd Division; Wagoner Dale Shaw, 88th Division; Sgt. Edward Myers, 26th Division; Sgt. Maj. S. A. Ritchie, 27th Division; Sgt. Fred J. Griffith, 90th Division; Sgt. Maj. L. H. Evridge, 37th Division; Regt. Sgt. Maj. William S. Bean, 81st Division; Regt. Sgt. Maj. William H. Brown, 7th Division; ex-officio members, Col. Milton J. Foreman, Lt.-Col. George A. White.

Preliminary to the decision to be made by this committee, there was a general discussion as to the basis of territorial representation for the convention, in order that the sub-committee might have a clear idea of the general sentiments of the A.E.F. in that respect. Other than the practically universal agreement, however, that representation should be by States, there was a wide divergence of opinion.

It was suggested that on the return of the A.E.F., county conventions be held in America, from which delegates will be chosen to attend State conventions, which in their turn will furnish delegates to the national convention. The ratio of one delegate for every 5,000 soldiers was mentioned, guaranteeing those States which had furnished the greatest number of men to the service should have the largest representation, but the final decision was left up to the sub-committee.

Bishop Charles H. Brent, senior chaplain of the A.E.F., offered the co-operation of the Comrades in Service movement to

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VOLUNTEERS, SENT FROM STATES, WILL SUB FOR REGULARS

"Emergency" Enlisters to Be Relieved in Order of Worthiness

The conditions under which members of Regular Army Organizations in the A.E.F. who were enlisted or drafted "for the emergency" shall be replaced by volunteers to be sent from the United States or re-enlisted in the A.E.F. are specified in G.O. 60, G.H.Q.

This order was issued after instructions had been received from the War Department that for every unit of 1,000 volunteers sent from the United States, there shall be returned to the States 1,000 men who were enlisted or drafted for temporary service. The instructions stated that the men returned should be the most meritorious cases.

Of the 50,000 volunteers being sought in the United States, 25,000 are to be Infantry, 15,000 Field Artillery, 5,000 Engineers, 3,000 Medical Department and 2,000 Cavalry. All are to be assigned to the Army of Occupation, so far as conditions permit.

As the first basis for the assignment of the volunteers, the new G.O. decrees that Regular Army organizations of the A.E.F. will not be increased above the strength they had on April 15, so long as there are "period of the emergency" soldiers in the organization. When volunteers are assigned to an organization an equal number of the selected cases of emergency period men are to be sent to the First Replacement Depot for return to the United States, the order directs.

In selecting from their commands those men to be returned to the States, division commanders will make choices in the order of these classes:

How Choices Will Be Made

1. Soldiers having evidence of sickness or other distress in their immediate families.
2. Soldiers having evidence that they are needed to resume employment in an industry or occupation in which there is urgent need of their services.
3. Soldiers having Class A or Class B allotments, and not included in the first classifications.
4. Soldiers longest in the service and desiring to be returned and not included in the foregoing classifications.

Soldiers in the first two classifications, whose grounds are family distress or need of their services in industry, will be required to submit applications to their division commander, attaching their evidence. No disapproval by intermediate commanders will be considered final until the application shall have been disapproved by the division commander.

In line with the general provisions of the order, it is specified that soldiers who enlisted prior to April 1, 1917, will not be returned under its authority.

The order also provides for speeding up return to the United States, under G.O. 13, in claims based on especially urgent cases of distress in family, by shortening the official channels through which such applications ordinarily pass and by making it possible to avoid the delays of the transfer systems. In urgent cases applications may be forwarded through immediate commander direct to higher authorities, such as Base Section Commanders in the S.O.S., Army Corps and Division Commanders, and, for troops not otherwise provided for, direct to G.H.Q. The order directs that all applications under G.O. 13 for discharge in Europe must be forwarded to G.H.Q. for consideration.

HANDSOME STATUE IS WILSON TROPHY FOR ALLIED GAMES

"Jason and the Golden Fleece" to Be Prize of Winning Country

RULES OF MEET OUTLINED

24 Events Listed for Great International Athletic Carnival at Joinville-le-Pont in June

Now that the A.E.F. sport program is moving swiftly toward the finals, increasing interest is being manifested in the great Inter-Allied games to be held at Joinville-le-Pont, near Paris, in June.

President Woodrow Wilson has offered a handsome trophy which will go to the nation scoring the greatest number of points; Gen. John J. Pershing has offered a prize for the winning team in the musketry competition, and it is understood that other trophies will soon be forthcoming from other prominent persons.

The President's gift is a bronze statue representing "Jason and the Golden Fleece," designed by De Lanson and awarded a prize at Rome.

In selecting the trophy, careful consideration was given to the question of choosing one which should combine in itself certain definite characteristics. It was felt that it should be artistic and of sufficient intrinsic value to comport with the dignity of the donor and the importance of the event for which it was the trophy. It was felt, too, that it should symbolize victory in an important undertaking involving personal prowess.

Accordingly, a study was made of the various pieces of silver, cups and bowls, and special designs of a similar nature, but none of these was felt to meet the conditions. Finally, the statue was chosen. It is one meter, 12 centimeters in height (about 44 inches).

Its symbolism is appropriate in that it represents the victory of the leader of the Argonauts over the dragon, and the return of the victor with the golden fleece. The application of this symbolism to present conditions can readily be made, and the statue seems admirably adapted, artistically and symbolically, for presentation by President Wilson as the championship trophy for the games.

It will bear the following inscription:

Track and Field Championship
Inter-Allied Games
Paris—1919
Presented by
President Wilson

Rules under which the games are to be conducted and details of the program have just been announced. There will be no official summary of the contests issued by the Games Committee as the meet progresses to fasten on any nation competing a military athletic championship, but the winning nation in each branch of sport will be recognized as champion in that particular sport.

Twenty-four different events are listed in the program, and competitions will be conducted in all of them in which entries are made by two or more nations.

The events are:

Baseball	Rowing, four oars
Basketball	Rowing, eight oars
Boxing	Shooting (individual), Army rifle
Cricket	Shooting (team), Army rifle
Cross-Country Race	Shooting (individual), pistol
Fencing, foils	Shooting (team), pistol
Fencing, saber	Swimming
Fencing, épée	Tennis
Football, soccer	Track and Field
Football, intercollegiate	Tug-of-War
Football, Rugby	Wrestling
Horse Riding	
Rowing singles	

In the track and field meets and the swimming meet, first place will count three points, second place two, and third place one. In tournaments where more than two

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BLUE DENIM SUITS FOR ALL HOMEGOERS

Idea Is to Keep O.D. Unsullied Till Her Facepowder Hits Its Shoulder

In a suit of denim blue
I'll come sailing back to you.

Soldiers of the A.E.F. will put on blue uniforms when they board the transports to take them home from France. It says so in Embarkation Instructions No. 19.

When this first word reaches New York by cable there will be a great livening up of those despondent song writers who live in the backwaters of Broadway and have been trying feverishly to grind out rhyming melodies with "khaki" and "olive drab."

But romance and sentiment, coaxed back into the attic by this fresh promise, will die utterly when the follow-up news on the blue uniforms reaches the song writers. For the cruel truth is that the blue raiment of the troops on transports will not be uniforms at all. In the Embarkation Instructions they are described as "suits of blue denim clothing," and to even the unknowing this is just a nice way of saying overalls.

Anyway, all troops going home from now on will wear the blue denim suits, or overalls, while on board boat. New York won't have the chance to see any heroes in blue, however, because soldiers will take off the blue denim the day before the boat reaches port. The idea is to protect soldiers' uniforms during the voyage, so that when they land they will not look as if they had just come out of a delousing shop.

The blue denim suits will be issued to all homegoing troops at the port of embarkation, careful count being kept. They will all be collected at the end of the journey and sent back to France to be reissued to more homeward bound men.

C.-IN-C. VISITS A.E.F. SCHOOL

General Pershing paid his first visit to the A.E.F. University at Beaune last week. After inspecting the 10,000 soldier-students there, he addressed them from the rostrum on Pershing Field.

Col. Ira L. Reeves, president of the university, introduced the Commander-in-Chief. Brig.-Gen. Rees, who directs the Army Educational Commission, occupied a seat on the speaker's platform together with M. Georges Crimanelli, Sous-Prefet of Beaune; M. Galotin Labrely, President of the Tribunal; M. Roberjob, Procurer of the Republic, and other French officials.

While General Pershing was at Beaune he met Miss Blanche True, one of the Y.M.C.A. secretaries there, whose mother was a former school teacher of General Pershing in the latter's birthplace, Laclede, Mo.

HALF A.E.F. MAY BE HOME WITHIN NEXT SIX WEEKS

12 Converted Cargo Ships Should Add 35,000 to Carrying Capacity

ONE, THE TROY, A BIG BOAT

Round-Trip Period Is Cut Down by Five Days, and German Liners Are Getting Into Play

With the prospect that in five or six weeks the A.E.F. will be one-half as large as it was on the day the armistice was signed, there will be put into operation in the first half of this month a fleet of 12 converted cargo vessels which should add from 35,000 to 40,000 troops a month to the carrying capacity of transports now in service.

Cable dispatches to Hq., S.O.S., this week said that the 12 large cargo boats, which have been refitted to accommodate soldiers, were scheduled to leave United States ports for France between April 6 and April 15.

Seven of the new boats will be able to carry more than 2,000 troops on each trip. The largest boat, the Troy, will carry approximately 7,550 troops on each voyage, and will be second in the American transport only to the Leviathan in carrying capacity. The other large refitted vessels, with their capacities, are:

Atemis	4,700
Ancon	3,500
Tiger	2,600
Raynor	2,500
Montpelier	2,350
St. Cecelia	2,000

The other five vessels, with capacities of from 1,500 to 2,000 each, are the steamships Black Arrow, Peerless, F. J. Luckenbach, General Gorgas and Shoshone.

The 12 new converted cargo vessels will take their places in the transport fleet together with 23 other converted cargo vessels which have been playing an increasingly important part in the monthly sailing records. About a score more cargo boats are still undergoing alterations to prepare them for transport service.

What "Converts" Have Already Done

In February the converted cargo boats carried home 10,779 troops. In March these vessels carried 28,281 troops. The estimate for April for cargo boats is 75,000.

A new development in the speeding up of embarkations is the reduction by five days of the average round-trip period of all transports. In March the average round-trip period for all boats was 32.9, against the February period of a fraction over 37 days.

The putting into service of the new converted cargo boats follows the first voyages of the large vessels turned over to the United States by Germany under the armistic agreement. The German boats are expected eventually to add 40,000 troops to monthly carrying capacity.

The converted German steamship Patricia carried from Brest early in the week units of the 26th Division, bound for Boston. The Graf Waldersee, sailing shortly after, carried casual outfits to be landed in New York. The Kaiserin Augusta Victoria and the Zeppelin also were scheduled to sail at the end of the week. The Prinz Frederick Wilhelm is expected to reach Brest tomorrow or Sunday and to depart loaded with troops a few days after she puts in. The Imperator is expected April 15, and the Trentino should arrive before the Imperator.

The German ships do not carry a single German member in their crews. The German sailors have all been replaced by U.S. Navy crews put aboard in England.

The plans for increasing monthly embarkations are emphasized by a statement given out this week by General March, Chief of Staff of the War Department.

"I have set as a mark to be reached 310,000 men in one month," General March is quoted as saying. "Each month is showing a steady increase over the month before, and we will do our level best to break the record in transatlantic troop shipments."

Further indications of speeding up of the return of troops is contained in a schedule prepared some weeks ago, which tentatively estimated the number of troops that would be left in France on June 30 at 629,382.

Good News for S.O.S.

Tentative plans have been submitted for the abandonment of all Service of Supply stations in the area east of Gièvres, together with a general reduction of all S.O.S. activities. Reports have been requested outlining the organizations of the S.O.S. which can be withdrawn from present locations or returned to the United States.

The approximate dates when these movements could be reasonably made has also been asked for. These reports were to have been submitted not later than April 5. In March 46,000 troops of the S.O.S. sailed for home.

Estimates call for the return of 23,537 S.O.S. troops in April. The tentative schedule also provides that 40,500 S.O.S. men should leave for home in May, and 64,510 in June.

Reports from headquarters of the Le Mans embarkation center say that indications are that S.O.S. troops will be evacuated through the camps in the Le Mans area, being assembled and prepared for embarkation.

A definite statement of the plans for the return of S.O.S. troops is now being prepared at Hq., S.O.S., and is expected to be announced within a few weeks.

Rainbow on the Move

This week saw the beginning of the long-distance movement of the 42nd Division toward the ocean. The first trains loaded with the Rainbow men left the occupied territory in Germany last Saturday and arrived in Brest Tuesday and Wednesday. The four trains a day schedule was maintained on following days. The 42nd Division is scheduled to pass through the Le Mans embarkation center without stopping, clearing the area on its way to Brest by April 13.

Immediately after the trains carrying the 42nd Division have passed out of the Le Mans area, presumably on April 14, the movement of the 77th Division will start from the Le Mans area. The 77th will travel to port at the rate of four trains a day and is expected to be out of the towns in the Le Mans area in which it has been billeted by April 19.

77th, Then 32nd, on Way to Coast

The 32nd Division will be next to move to port after the 77th, and it, like the 42nd, will make the long journey from its territory in the Army of Occupation direct to Brest with the same four trains a day schedule.

The last units of the 35th Division left the Le Mans area this week for St. Nazaire, where the greater part of the division is going aboard. Division headquarters sailed from St. Nazaire Wednesday.