

HOW 2ND AND 36TH AIDED GOURAUD WEST OF ARGONNE

Veteran Regulars and Marines Plus National Guard Prove Their Worth

VITAL PART OF BIG DRIVE

Breaking of German Front in Champagne Helped Victory of A.E.F. Further to the East

As a logical part of the operations of American divisions in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, an outline is now in order of the fine work performed by two divisions—the 2nd and the 36th—with the Fourth French Army, under General Gouraud, early in October, on the Champagne front about midway between the Argonne forest and Reims.

The fourth French Army, the immediate object of whose right flank was to assist the First American Army in clearing the Argonne and the object of whose left flank was to force the enemy back from Reims, had made good progress in its first frontal attack, from September 25 to October 1, and had broken through a great part of the terrible maze of German defenses, in some places 12 kilometers or more in depth, which stretched across the Champagne front.

But north of Somme-Py, which had been a very important center of the enemy's defensive systems, there still remained unbroken some very powerful lines and centers of resistance in the vicinity of Orfeuil, Meudal Farm, Blanc Mont, St. Etienne and St. Pierre-en-Arnes, positions which the enemy had maintained, and which he endeavored to continue his close investment of Reims, since they secured the left flank of his lines before that city. To tempt to the right of his army the stimulus of the immediate presence of American troops with them, as well as to avail of the actual numerical strength and lively initiative of the American troops, General Gouraud had placed under his command after its withdrawal from the St. Mihiel salient, for the reduction of the Blanc Mont positions.

The 2nd Goes In

Accordingly, the 2nd Division, which had been in an area south of Chalons-sur-Marne since September 24, was marched thence to the Bois de Sully, and on the night of October 12 relieved the 61st French Division in the front line just north of Somme-Py, the actual positions being in a line of German trenches called the Somme-Py trench, which was now required to face north instead of south. The 2nd was now the left division of the Twenty-fourth Corps, having in its right flank the 17th Division, and in its left the 21st Division of the Eleventh Corps.

Its communication ran back through Somme-Py, where was located the division post of command, and ahead of it to the northwest the sector which it was to conquer stretched across some open ground through the Bois de Sully, and then over the rolling highland of Blanc Mont, considerably wooded with small timber set out in long, narrow "plantations," and interspersed with numerous trees, vines and strong points.

The right boundary of the sector just excluded Meudal Farm, the left one included the Bois de Sully, and the front was a wide frontage beyond Blanc Mont, and then, about three kilometers further on, just excluded St. Etienne village.

The 2nd Division had to spend its first days in the clearing lingering Germans from the western part of the Essen trench itself, while the 17th Division, which was on open ground, made some progress of its own right. Another office is located at Carrefour and Meudal Farm. The 21st Division was still fighting for parts of the trenches extending to the left from these hills by the 2nd Division, which was unable to conquer a particularly strong section of the trench, called locally the hook of the Essen trench, which was just west of the 2nd Division's front.

On the morning of October 3 all the divisions on this part of the front attacked together, the 2nd going in with the 9th Infantry on the right, supported by the 23rd Infantry, the 6th Marines on the left, the 5th Marines standing fast in the center because the lines of attack of the flank regiments converged to a connected front. The 2nd Division was to be flanked on both sides and then mopped up by inner companies of the attacking regiments. The 2nd Division was to be flanked on both sides and then mopped up by inner companies of the attacking regiments. The 2nd Division was to be flanked on both sides and then mopped up by inner companies of the attacking regiments.

Suffer 15 Per Cent Casualties

Under very violent fire from the enemy the attack went forward as planned, getting to the top of the trench, and then to the foot of the hill. The 6th Division, which had relieved the 17th on the right, also gained the top of the hill, but the 21st was less fortunate, failing to get to the top of the hill.

Continued on Page 8

EXIT THE BARKEEP; ENTER SODA TOSSE

Coming Drought Effects Aul Transformation at Home

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES]

AMERICA, April 17.—The country is now busily occupied in trying to find some satisfactory substitute for the mahogany counter-top, but some of the more costly to go out of existence in a few short weeks. A mid sensation was created in New York when the news was published that a certain metropolitan club was to put in soda fountains and offer nut sandwiches to the suffering club men. It is understood that a school for turning hardened barkeeps into soda fountain clerks is likely to be established in various large centers to keep this important phase of unemployment from becoming acute. Meanwhile, the soda fountain industry matter is now stocked in private cellars against the day of the great drought. Burglars no longer enter by way of the porch-roof, but come through the window in the places where the furnace coal bins and the high shelves of the fruit cellar are located. Anyone caught carrying a package home is instantly set down as enlarging his private cache.

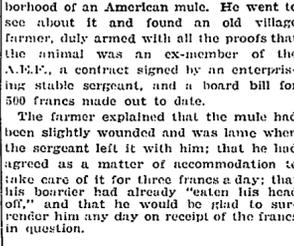
Practically the last hope of postponing the day of reckoning is gone, so any member of the A.E.F. wanting one more coffee in his native land had better not put off his sailing date from Europe beyond the middle of June, at the latest.

AWOL RUNS UP 500 FRANCS FOR 9 MONTHS' BOARD

That Is, If Farmer Can Collect for Mule's Chow

There is one member of the A.E.F. who has been AWOL since the Battle of the Marne last July, and who will never return until the Army pays his board bill. The fact that he happens to be a Missouri mule and that his board bill happens to be about 500 francs is now keeping the Remount Division awake nights trying to figure out whether he is worth the trouble. Last week an agent of the Baggage Department was hunting up lost baggage in the village of Ante. The mayor's wife informed him of the presence in the neighborhood of an American mule. He went to see about it and found an old village farmer, duly armed with all the proofs that the animal was an ex-member of the A.E.F., a contract signed by an enterprising public servant, and a board bill for 500 francs due to date.

The farmer explained that the mule had been slightly wounded and was lame when the sergeant left it with him; that he had agreed as a matter of accommodation to take care of it for three francs a day; that his boarder had already "eaten his head off," and that he would be glad to surrender him any day on receipt of the francs in question.



MA'MSELLE TURNS STOKER TO MARRY HER BEAUMICHAEL

Lass Who Loved Bosun's Mate Languishes in Brig

The lass that loved a sailor has been a much-sung heroine, but it is doubtful if the poet's finest frenzy ever painted a more heroic love than that of Mlle. Alexandrine Bosun, enamored of Bosun's Mate Michael Black, who all too bravely snatched her face with charcoal and stowed herself away with the stokers in the hold of the transport Luckenbach, leaving Brest.

Time and tide, having refused to wait for the ponderous marriage laws of France, carried the roop ship to sea before the lass could get her betrothal knot, so when the lovers met the lady was disguised as a Stevedore.

It is probably the only case on record in the Navy in which a Bosun's mate has become affianced to a stoker.

All went well until the ship began to roll and bobble, when Mlle. Black, along with her equilibrium and her table d'hôte, was discovered, "isolated," and put into custody when the boat reached America. Black is now looking for his fiancée in the Bois de Sully, and swears he'll have the license waiting when she gets it.

LAST CHANCE, BUT IT'S ONLY A BANK

Still, Beaucoup Kegs and Cases Are Unloaded There

It's an A.E.F. "Last Chance." In front of it are unloaded daily small-sized kegs, boxes, and cases, which come down the streets of the water-side in ambulating trucks guided by penny doughboys. And there are always to be seen groups and lines of home-going soldiers, kicking their heels in anticipation, and wondering how long it will be before their turn comes.

But, alas, it isn't a saloon. It's merely a modern bank building, erected near the railroad station at the Bois de Sully, for the purpose of reimbursing at the very gauged plank returning soldiers for expenses incurred in France.

The president of the bank is a major, and the \$3,000,000 monthly that he disburses comes to him in those small-sized kegs and those oblong boxes. The kegs are full of hard American money; the boxes are full of greenbacks. When not doing duty the money marks time in the Army constructed safe, encased in concrete walls four inches thick, and reinforced with iron.

The new bank building, or, to be correct, the offices of the Finance Department of the Quartermaster Corps at Brest, are erected by members of Company F, 319th Engineers. Twice monthly shipments of American money, amounting to this sum of \$3,000,000, are received. This is used in exchange for French money and serves the entire area covered by the A.E.F. One box often contains as much as \$40,000 in paper.

At the cantonment camp at Brest eight officers are on duty every day and evening until 11 o'clock, and much of the French money of home-going troops is exchanged here. Another office is located at Pier 5, from which a great majority of the troops leave, and here vanish the remaining francs—all except those which the men wish to keep as souvenirs.

MEDICOS TRAIN BIG GUNS ON MOSQUITO

Cootie Ranked Out of Priority by Latest Arrival

The Mosquito Fleet is the latest addition to the Medical Corps, organized by command of the Surgeon General for the capture of AWOL mosquitoes in all parts of the world.

Now that the mosquitoes who lose his papers is submitted to perpetual delousing instead of progressive vaccination, the cootie has fallen into the background, and the War Department has taken steps to bring the long-neglected mosquito back into its own.

SECOND ARMY IS NOW BUT MEMORY; FIRST TO FOLLOW

A.E.F. Will Soon Consist Merely of Rhine Watch and S. O. S.

YANKS DESERT TOUL AREA

But Devastated Villages Are Being Slowly Repopulated by Returning Refugees

The Second American Army is not. At noon, on Tuesday of this week, in compliance with orders issued from Chateau, it ceased to be. On April 20, the First American Army will follow suit. Then the A.E.F. will consist merely of the Army of Occupation and the S.O.S., for all the remaining combat divisions not assigned to Rhineland duty will then be transit troops, more or less war-worn battalions homeward bound.

The dissolution of the Army under Lieutenant General Bullard's command was the first break-up of a regularly formed American Army since the end of the Civil War. It brought to a close the not particularly eventful career of an organization formed for an offensive that was never launched, a battle that was never fought, the Franco-American attack in Lorraine, which was scheduled for November 11, and to escape the consequences of which the German General Staff threw up its hands.

The dissolution process was simple and painless. As a matter of fact, there had been a continuous diminution of the Second Army ever since the signing of the armistice. Divisions had been wrested from it. Officers had been transferred to other organizations. Officers and men had scattered to sundry schools and commissions. Many had gone home. G-2, for instance, had already lost 90 per cent of its personnel when the order came to shut up shop.

C-in-C. There for Finale

The end came in a blaze of glory, for, on last Friday, General Pershing arrived to review the troops in the great aviation field outside the city and, in preparation for these final ceremonies, Toul was abuzz with activity, with the A.E.F. redoubting its watchword of the day, "New Toul is just a little suburb of the S.O.S."

The rapid dwindling of American forces in that part of Lorraine which supported our first real sector is the most striking evidence of the passing of the A.E.F. You get a hunch that a good many Americans are leaving France when your observation points in one of the big ports, redoubting the thought of the A.E.F. is the region of the St. Mihiel battle, for one by one the little dismal towns and villages are being emptied of their last Americans.

Members of the A.E.F. are to wear a War Service Ribbon while awaiting the Victory Medals promised for all who served in the Allied Armies, according to an announcement from General March, Chief of Staff of the Army, at Washington.

The A.E.F. service ribbons will carry the name of the country with which the soldier served, bronze stars denoting participation in one or several of the officially recognized 12 major military operations of the American Army and silver stars for "every citation for gallantry in action issued from the headquarters of a force commanded by a general officer" in all cases where no other United States medal has been awarded. Both the bronze and silver stars will be three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter.

The 12 major operations are: 1. The 1918, for which the bronze stars are to be worn are as follows: Somme defensive, France, March 27-April 6. St. Mihiel offensive, France, Sept. 26-27. Meuse-Argonne offensive, France, June 9-June 12. Meuse-Argonne offensive, France, July 15-July 18. Meuse-Argonne offensive, France, July 18-Aug. 5. Meuse-Argonne offensive, France, Aug. 18-Nov. 11. St. Mihiel offensive, France, Sept. 26-27. St. Mihiel offensive, France, Sept. 26-27. St. Mihiel offensive, France, Sept. 26-27.

Details are now also available as to the wearing of the medal itself when it shall be forthcoming. In the first place, the medal will be distributed generously to every member of the Army of the United States "on active duty for 15 days" in 1918. But there will be many distinctions to preserve the identity of those who served in the A.E.F., of those who took part in active warfare against the enemy at the front, and of those who received citations for gallantry in action.

Special Markings for A.E.F. The medal will show by some kind of a decorative clasp whether the wearer served in France, Italy, England, Siberia or European Russia. Thus will be formed the great divide, those who did and those who did not get to the A.E.F. In the A.E.F. itself there will be additional markings of the same nature to show whether or not a man took part in an "active engagement" against the enemy.

As in the case of the War Service Ribbon, bronze and silver stars will be worn on the ribbon, the medals, to represent participation in the major operations and citations.

It is hoped that the A.E.F. will be back in the States before the inter-Allied medal is ready for issue.

SILVER STRIPE MEN WANT TO COME OVER

Many Volunteered for Foreign Service Says Secretary Baker

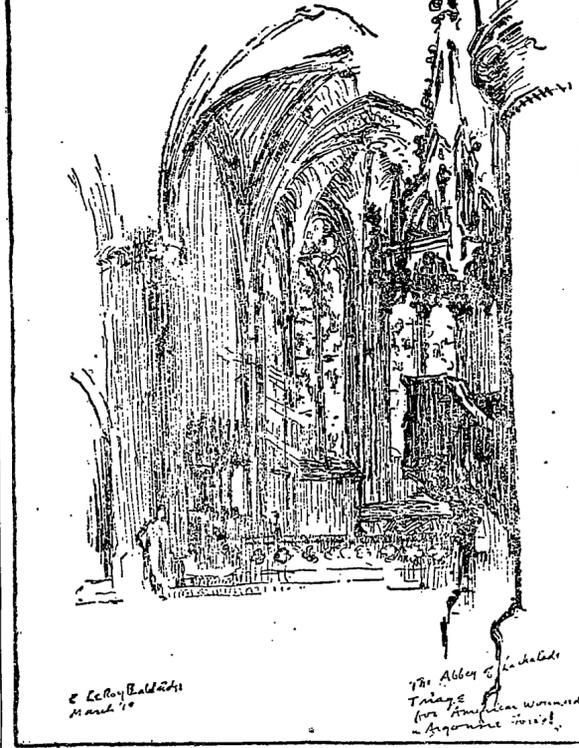
Secretary Baker will remain but ten days in France, during which time he will make an inspection with General Pershing, probably visiting Coblenz before his return.

Without making any concrete estimate, the Secretary stated that men, especially those who had been under arms but had been unable to get to France, were enlisting in considerable numbers for foreign service.

It is the purpose of the Government, if necessary legislation is passed, to effect a field of honor in France, Secretary Baker said, containing a cemetery for the men who have fallen in France, a place that shall be beautiful and shall be under the permanent custodianship of the United States. A number of letters were received at the War Department, he said, from patriots requesting that the bodies of their sons be buried in France.

Some of the men complained, the Secretary stated, that they wished the country had postponed the prohibition vote until they had returned, but there was not a widespread expression of disapproval.

WHERE WOUNDED LAY



The church at Lecloude in the Ardennes, a cold, huge-pillared, half-ruined edifice built at Lecloude in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, served last fall as a refuge for American wounded carried down out of the Argonne forest. Here the Medical Department took into its custody the finished, exhausted men from the famous Whistler's battalion, which held out four days in a surrounded ravine of the forest.

RIBBONS FOR A.E.F. SOON; DESIGNS OF MEDAL ANNOUNCED

Stars Indicate Bravery and Participation in Major Action

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DANIELS TO SPEND EASTER ON RHINE

Naval Secretary and His Son UNIFORM ON DISCHARGE

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MEDICAL MEN KEPT 94 PER CENT OF US FIT AT ALL TIMES

Only 3.4% of Remainder Incapacitated by Disease, Records Show

WORLD'S HEALTHIEST ARMY

Lives of 182,000 Out of 195,000 Wounded Saved; Department Still Caring for 56,000

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

Way back in the sixteenth century the court corner of King Louis XI, of France, having accumulated a substantial rake-off through the unethical treatment of the edges of Louis d'Or, built himself a pretentious dwelling in a modest quarter of Tours and settled down in retirement. The years passed and so did the corner. But the house remained standing, as if awaiting an opportunity to efface the memory of its shame by rendering service to nobler tenants.

That opportunity has come; the somber walls which once looked down upon the miser ingering his gold today re-echo to the clattering of the ultra-modern machines whose mechanical fingers register the very pulse-beat of the A.E.F.

Here are the sick and wounded records of the American Army—1,300,000 cards that show its health, its wounds and diseases, its deaths and recoveries. It is all here, the entire history of the work of the Medical Department in France. And it is all in order, thanks to the automatic tabulating machines, and a diligent staff, including members of the French nobility and a Russian comess.

There is one yardstick with which to measure the work of an Army's Medical Department. What part of the Army did it keep on the "effective" list? High and clear above all mistakes made, shadowing almost into obscurity all defects and blunders, the record of the Medical Department of the American Army stands out in bold relief as one of the great accomplishments in medical war history.

Healthiest in War's History Ninety-four and three-tenths per cent of the Yank Army was effective for duty at all times, and of the 5.7 per cent of the non-effective list, only 3.4 per cent of them were so rendered by disease. This means that the American Army was the healthiest Army in the history of warfare.

But while the work of the Medical Department, including as it does both the ounce of prevention and the pound of cure, is best reflected in the general health of the Army, its capacity is put to the hardest test when the medical staff at Army headquarters take up its mained and wounded, and then with all its resources of skill and science restore every possible man to the ranks. The 182,000 Yanks that are now training in this way or another in wounding represented certainly the most direct challenge that came to our Medical Corps. It came straight from the front lines, where it was to be met in typically American fashion.

The Medical Corps is a non-combatant organization, but it waged the longest, hardest, highest honors of the war for the lives of those 182,000 wounded Americans. And it is an American habit to win. The lives of 182,000 were saved.

Few Empty Sleeves or Peglegs For many of these lost, the battle was very close. In the days to come young America will hear very few stories of the empty sleeve, because, thanks to modern surgery and medicine, the Army Medical Corps, with its empty sleeves or wooden pegs, but all America will read the history of the splendid work of the Medical Corps in the 182,000 D. soldiers entitled to wear wound chevrons.

The health and wound records of an army meet in its vital statistics. To date there have been 72,723 deaths in the A.E.F. plan for an international labor convention will be laid before the delegates. The plan as read provides for: 1. The International Labor Conference. 2. The International Labor Bureau controlled by a governing body for the purpose of collecting and distributing information of use to labor.

It is hoped that the questions most directly affecting Italy, especially the Adriatic question, can now be brought to speedy agreement. The Adriatic question known by number, not by name, and enjoying a prominent place in the settlement of the Adriatic question, can now be brought to speedy agreement. The Adriatic question known by number, not by name, and enjoying a prominent place in the settlement of the Adriatic question, can now be brought to speedy agreement.

Clemency boards are now reviewing the cases of the A.E.F.'s 1,100-odd general prisoners—men serving sentences for violation of one or more of the Articles of War, who, on the completion of their terms, unless some higher authority intervenes and sets aside the verdict, will be dishonorably discharged, which means that they are serving vary from one year to life imprisonment.

Four hundred and seventy-six prisoners, from combat divisions, are now being reviewed for "misbehavior in the face of the enemy," are in an enclosure at St. Sulpire, near Bordeaux. They are housed in gray barracks surrounded by a barbed wire stockade, around which pace guards armed with saved-off shotguns. There have been no attempts at escape.

General prisoners from the S.O.S., with a sprinkling from the Articles of War, are being held at Givères in a similar enclosure. At both camps the prisoners, who include both ex-officers and enlisted men, are each known by number, not by name, and enjoying no distinction, are taken out in groups under armed escort to do day labor around the grounds. They wear denim bearing the letters "G" and "N" on the back, and a white "G" generally in conspicuous white paint.

Recently it was disclosed at Givères that some of the prisoners had worked themselves out of their quarters and had somehow got themselves assigned to the comparatively soft jobs of policing welfare huts. As soon as this was discovered the men were landed back in stockade, around which pace guards armed with saved-off shotguns. There have been no attempts at escape.

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GERMAN ENVOYS TO MEET WITH ALLIED POWERS APRIL 25

Treaty May Be Signed on Anniversary of End of War of 1870

WILL ADHERE TO 14 POINTS

American Army of Occupation, if Permanent, Will Be Composed Wholly of Volunteers

An agreement was reached Wednesday by the Allies to send food into Russia under neutral control. The French, however, made several reservations, which were to be considered further. It seems likely at present that the objections will be overcome and the relief work will proceed rapidly under the auspices of Dr. Nansen and other Scandinavians and the Swiss. If the Bolsheviks agree to cease hostilities, which is stipulated in the agreement.

President Wilson, as spokesman of the Peace Conference, this week sent out the message for which the world has been anxiously waiting since November 11, by announcing that the German plenipotentiaries would be invited to meet the representatives of the Allies and associated powers at Versailles on April 25.

The Paris Temps names May 10, the anniversary of the signing of the Peace Treaty of 1871, as the possible date when the signatures will be actually placed upon the document that is to end the war. Other speculations mention an even earlier date.

Outstanding in this week's developments are four points which touch France and America in particular. Those of prime interest to the United States are:

Fourteen Points to Be Basis First, the assurance from American sources that the Peace Treaty addresses President Wilson's 14 points.

Second, that if there is a permanent American Army of Occupation, it will be made up of volunteers.

The two points in which France is most interested, and uncertainty over which culminated in a demand for information from Premier Clemenceau by members of the French Chamber are:

First, that the claims of France will be fully satisfied.

Second, the coal lands of the Saar valley will be placed under German administration. This last statement has been amplified by the explanation that the Saar valley itself will become an independent state, ruled by the French and administered by a commission of five, one member French, one nominated by the local population and three appointed by the League of Nations.

As the coal lands of the Saar valley are determined by plebiscite its own future, and if it decides to become a part of Germany that power can buy back the coal fields at a price then to be determined.

It will hardly fail to be noted here that the Socialist press of France and some other groups, including American newspaper men, have raised the plaint that this quiet question of German territory by Germany consulting the local population is not, in the opinion of the objectors, in strict accord with the principles of self-determination and may give cause for future friction.

The Peace Conference has yet to deal with several important questions. At a future plenary session the revised draft of the covenant of the League of Nations was drawn up by the commission appointed for the purpose, will be considered.

The disputed territorial claims such as those of Italy and Japan, and the Adriatic area, those of Poland and Czechoslovakia on Germany's eastern frontier must be adjusted. Details of reparation and guarantees must be agreed upon.

Questions of the permanent army of occupation must be settled. United States and Great Britain are believed to oppose leaving their forces along the Rhine, but Germany is believed to have fulfilled her obligations.

International Labor Convention At the fourth plenary session of the Peace Conference held last Friday, plan for an international labor convention will be laid before the delegates. The plan as read provides for: 1. The International Labor Conference. 2. The International Labor Bureau controlled by a governing body for the purpose of collecting and distributing information of use to labor.

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