

YANKS ADVANCING EAST OF MEUSE ON EVE OF ARMISTICE

Powerful Attack Stopped Only by Cessation of Hostilities

CLOSE UNION WITH FRENCH

Despite Stiffening of German Resistance Progress Was Made Steadily Till End

By the 8th day of October, when the American front in the Meuse-Argonne sector had progressed to a line running approximately east and west from Brioules to Chatelet-Chebery, a situation had been created which rendered it as last expedient to extend the offensive to the east of the Meuse.

In this region, lying north and northeast of Verdun, the enemy had a maze of powerfully entrenched lines, partly surviving from the period of intense fighting known as the Battle of Verdun, in 1916, and partly of more recent construction, but amounting in effect to a close weaving together of all the defensive zones which, further westward, were spread at wider intervals across the country.

Directly north of Verdun and east of Conservoy these defensive zones appear to have consisted of at least six main lines within a depth of ten kilometers, the front line being called the Brabantier Stellung, which had behind it successively the Ingen Stellung, the Volker Stellung, the Etzel Stellung, the Giesler Stellung (unfinished), and the Kriemhilde Stellung.

On October 8 the American right flank near Brioules was 15 kilometers northeast of the front German trenches east of the river; in other words, an obtuse salient had been created containing the German front immediately east of the Meuse. The south side of this salient was held by the Seventeenth Army Corps (French), of the First American Army, in the stable, entrenched front north of Verdun; the southwest side of it was held by the 23rd U.S. Division along the western bank of the Argonne river, while they were engaged by other American troops northwest of that point as far as the vicinity of Brioules.

Attack Deemed Imperative

Not only would it be advantageous to attack the enemy in this newly-created salient, driving northeast toward the railroad line from Metz to Mézières, closely threatening the Meuse valley, Metz itself, but it had become imperative to do so, first, because the German artillery and machine guns from the east of the Meuse were constantly falling on the American front, and they were engaged in their offensive operations toward such places as Romagne and Bantheville; second, because the increasing length of the front line along the Meuse offered the enemy a collateral opportunity for a counter-offensive against the right flank of the obtuse salient; and third, because the French army, which was to be the spearhead of the attack, was to be cleared before the American forces north of the latter town could force the passage of the Meuse and debouch into a bridgehead east of it.

Three Divisions With French

Early in October the 33rd U.S. Division, in line with the 26th and 29th U.S. Divisions, were placed under the corps command of the Seventeenth French Army Corps (General Claudel). The plans of the latter commander, that the 26th, 29th and 33rd U.S. Divisions were to be placed in line, the 18th and the 26th. The 18th lay in its trenches with its left on the Meuse, at first attached to the Bois de Caure, and one-half kilometer east of there. The 26th lay to the right of the 18th as far as Beaumont, also on a front of about two kilometers, and the Bois de Caure directly in front of it. The 33rd U.S. Division, with the 15th Colonial Division next to the right of the 26th Division, and the 10th Colonial Division next to the right of the 33rd Division, was to attack straight north, taking Haumont, the Bois de Brabant and Ormont Farm. The 26th Division was to take the Bois des Caures directly in front, and later the village of Vlaban north and slightly east of the woods. The 15th Colonial Division was to actively protect the right of the 26th by advancing and occupying the ridge of Caureux and the southern part of Vlaban. The 10th Colonial Division, curving round the bend in the front with its right toward the Bois de Caures and the Bois de Vlaban, was to stand fast, but ready to attack, if events warranted.

Only after the 18th Division should have advanced some 200 yards, and be ready for troops of the 33rd and 29th U.S. Divisions to move forward, when they would cross the river and swing in on the right flank of the 18th Division in the wide open space between that flank and the Meuse. For this purpose, the 58th Brigade of the 29th Division only was at first attached to the Bois de Caure, and was assembled on the west side of the canal, which had been wrested from the enemy, between Samoueux and Brabant Farm. There were also two American, two and one-half kilometers northwest, troops of the 33rd Division lay west of the river ready to advance at the proper time.

Woods to Be Cleared

The mission of the 58th Brigade, 29th Division, was to clear the Bois de Conservoy, the ravines and the edges of the Bois de Caure and the Bois de Vlaban, north of it, and thereafter to direct their attack toward the Bois de Caure. The 33rd Division was to clear the east bank of the Meuse northward to Sivy and toward the Bois de Caure.

TO DEDICATE CEMETERY

Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the Inter-Allied Food Commission, will dedicate the new American cemetery at Mezières, France, on Friday, May 1, 1919. There are 100 American soldiers buried there, ten nurses, and a number of Allied soldiers. The dedication will follow a parade of all troops stationed in the vicinity, including detachments of the 109th and 529th Engineers, and 60 nurses.

CRAP GAME BUSTED UP BY GEN. CAESAR NETS YANKS LOOT

But the 142nd Infantry Can't Locate Them Latin Bones

An interrupted crap game held upon the Roman road near Tonnerre, France, which resulted in the widespread scattering of the entire pot by the soldiers when Gen. J. Caesar happened upon the scene has meant rich yield to the 2nd Battalion of the 142nd Infantry, now stationed there.

Although it is some 2,000 years since the Roman Buck Legionnaires dropped their coin and ran, a great number of silver and gold pieces, to say nothing of copper and bronze,



have been discovered by the members of the 142nd Infantry who have been carefully searching the plowed fields in the vicinity.

The presence of the money, while generally explained on the interrupted crap game theory is attributed by some to relics of a Roman Y.M.C.A. but that it is believed stood near this site about the time of Constantine. In any case the coin is there and the 2nd Battalion is becoming expert in numismatics.

A search was instituted for the bones, but was abandoned when an erudite antiquarian explained that the spots would probably be printed in Latin blank verse, making them unintelligible to the A.E.F.

M.L.L.E. WRITES MORE TO HER AMERICAIN

Censor Notes Jump in Yanko-Franco Correspondence

Maybe it is the peculiar something that is in the French spring air. Maybe it is the ardent desire of the Yank to put over a final epistolary barrage before sailing for home. And maybe it is the real thing.

But the fact remains that there are an increasing number of letters passing between American soldiers and French mademoiselles and from French mademoiselles to American soldiers. It is all down in black and white at the office of the Base Censor, Hotel Mediterranee, Paris, A.E.F. postal headquarters.

Considering these letters is merely one of the many tasks assigned to the Base Censor's office. Noting the addresses is as vital a part of their work as anything they may do. Letters to enemy countries, with their own Roman, Greek and other letters which can't be sent because there is no regularly established postal service, as in Russia, for instance, are also handled by the office. It was sent by an Italian Yank to the Little Blonde Girl Who Lives on the Second Floor of the House Cross the Street from the Hotel de la Ville, Paris, Italy, and who has a sister named Margaret.

ULYSSES COULDN'T QUITE MANAGE IT

Catboat and Cognac Landed Him in Brig, Not U.S.

The army of the ancient Greeks so often touted by its press agent Homer (last name unknown) as a man world beater had records were nothing on the A.E.F. For in the front with the right of the Meuse, there are a Ulysses of his own, who armed only with a few liters of cognac, very old, and a small bark, set out to sail home.

The charms of France had no more power on this Yank than they had on the Greek hero, and after only a year or so lingering in the land of vin blanc he decided, after pay day and frequent purges of liquid nourishment, to buy a skiff and set sail. He got out of sight of land, but forgot, as men will, that there are A.E.F.'s on board transports, and before long he was within reach of the land.

The big ship bowed down on the argonaut and, generously offering him enough rope to hang himself with, pulled him overboard and gave him a warm place in the brig. There is no record showing that Ulysses was waiting when he landed in France again, but it may have been that the A.E.F. in this particular watch by the A.E.F. who set about working up for the home papers.

90TH DIVISION ORGANIZES

In order to make plans for its home-coming and to look out for its members after demobilization, the 90th Division Association has been formed at the division headquarters on the Moselle at Berncastel, Germany.

All officers and enlisted men who have at any time served with the division are eligible to membership. The first reunion will be held in the fall of this year at Dallas, Texas.

Capt. Gus Dittmar, 360th Infantry, is president of the association; Ordnance Sgt. Arthur J. Rhinow, 4th Division Headquarters, is secretary; and Sgt. Owen T. Partridge, 315th Engineers, is treasurer.

Q.M.C. GETS THE STUFF TO OUR ARCTIC ARMY



Convoy of supplies near Archangel in North Russia. Special clothing, snow shoes and fur caps had to be furnished the A.E.F. men in this frozen region

NINE LEAVE AREAS CLOSED AS YANKS TURN STEPS HOME

Seven Most Popular Ones All to Remain Open After May 1

POLICY STAYS AS BEFORE

Activities Will Speed Up Rather Than Lessen in Spring Months

Nine of the present leave areas will be closed by May 1, but it is only a sign that the A.E.F. is far on its homeward journey.

As the A.E.F. dwindles, the greater part of it is either turning its footsteps or its hopes homeward rather than toward the pleasure resorts of France, with the result that the Leave Area Bureau announces plans for drawing in its stakes and concentrating on seven of the most popular leave areas after May 1.

The leave areas that are to remain open after that date—Aix-les-Bains, Chambéry, Nice, Annecy, St. Malo, Cauterets and Biarritz—will be able to accommodate 17,000 permissives. Those that are now in the process of closing or will close between now and that time are Nimes, Eaux Bonnes, Vals-les-Bains, Lamallouze-Bains, Cannes, Grenoble, Chamonix, Menton and Bagnères-de-Luchon. This will stop at the time the leave areas capacity practically in half at about the same time the A.E.F. is scheduled to have reached the half-way mark on its way home.

Plenty of Room for All

Leave area accommodations will, therefore, be available for those in the rear of the home-going procession in about the same ratio as when the accommodations were at a maximum. They will offer opportunities for "class" leaves, the French Alps, the Pyrenees and parts of the Mediterranean.

The special leave trains now transporting men to and from the areas to be kept open will remain in operation, but those which have been running to the areas about to be abandoned will, of course, be discontinued. The daily trains from Is-sur-Tille to Menton will cease with the closing of the Riviera resorts. With the disappearance of the First Army, the service between St. Florentine and Is-sur-Tille will be discontinued. The five weekly trains from Merssch to Is-sur-Tille, serving the Second Army, are also scheduled to be discontinued within a few days.

No Change in Leave Policy

There is to be no change in the policy of granting leaves. In addition to the seven-day leaves, which are spent at regular authorized and designated leave areas, there will be no change in the policy of granting leaves under Classes B, C, D and E. Class D is the 14-day leave to Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, or points in France except Paris and the leave areas, with the exception of the 60 cents a day. The Class C leave for three days in Paris will continue in full force. The Class D leaves for casuals ordered to the United States will not be changed. The Class E leave for three days to any point in France, except Paris, will continue in full force, and remains available for sightseers and for those who wish to remain open are announced. The contracts, which provide the best of accommodations in luxurious hotels, will be kept in force. Elaborate theatrical productions are being booked to make the most of the summer. The wonderful scenery, rangelands for mountain climbing, tennis, basketball, golf, dancing and swimming are being perfected. And as the springtime merges into summer, the wonderful scenery lends the last touch needed to make the A.E.F. playgrounds a soldier's paradise.

M.P. IS NO ENEMY TO MEN ON PARIS LEAVE

It's too bad to upset old traditions with regard to M.P.'s, but the truth will out. Contrary to a popular suspicion on the part of more than one gent in C.D.'s who has languished in the brig.

And, in the second place, the M.P.'s do not regard everyone who comes up to them in the light of a possible assaulting victim, or as an AWOL, nor do they lead you

CHICKEN VS. CORN BILL

Chicken issue for the A.E.F. (the edible variety) is the latest rumor from the States. According to cable statements from New York, 4,000,000 pounds of canned bird has been ordered to replace corned beef.

GAIN COMMISSIONS BUT LACK REGALIA

1,210 Ex-3rd Looeys Empty Stores of Sam Brownes and Gold Bars

The gold bar market, which had its bottom knocked out when the no-more-commissions orders shattered the hopes of a few thousand candidate officers all over the A.E.F., has had such a boom at St. Aignan that the much sought after product has almost completely disappeared. The reason: 1,210 black-strippers suddenly commissioned—and more to come.

Although the weary waiting had considerably dimmed the goal of their desire, it was noticed that there was little reluctance in sitting for the photograph that goes into the identification paper and a duplicate picture to go in the mails for mother as soon as the print is dry.

Officers' clothes and equipment—garrison shoes, ornaments and all the other things—are very scarce at St. Aignan and most of the freshly plumed shave-tails asked for a leave to go to Tours in search of a Sam Brownie belt.

Eighteen hundred graduates of La Vallonnette, Langres and Saumur candidate schools, had drifted into the First Replacement Depot at St. Aignan since last January. For the last three months they who have lived on everything from hopes and promises to K.P. and special guard duty, are coming into their own. Twelve hundred are in the line, Infantry, Artillery and Signal Corps men, have now been given temporary commissions as second lieutenants and placed on active service, two-thirds of them being sent up for replacements in the Army of Occupation, and the remaining third, scattered through the S.O.S.

Appointments are a result of the many promotions authorized by telegraphic instructions from the War Department and the further fact that officers with sufficient seniority to be eligible for discharge are being released from the service.

The first step taken to recognize the school work of the 1,800 and to fix their military status was to commission them in the Reserve Corps and place on the active list 600 of them. This was followed by the decision to give active commissions, and under one G.H.Q. order these went to 670 candidates. Now 670 more commissions have just been granted.

There remain about 600 on the waiting list and the latest news from St. Aignan is that the War Department will be ready by May 1. After St. Aignan is disposed of, those graduates who went back to their organizations and who are yet in France may get their chance.

NEW G.O. TELLS METHODS FOR MAKING PROMOTIONS

The procedure by which promotions may be made in the A.E.F. to fill vacancies is specified in G.O. 64, G.H.Q. The order declares that a vacancy may be filled by a promotion from a position authorized by the War Department that is either unoccupied or is occupied by an officer of a grade lower than that authorized by the War Department.

The G.O. specifies that there shall be either an approved table of organization showing the authorized numbers of each grade, or a statement that certain classes of officers may consist of a definite number in each of several grades, or that authority is granted for the officers in those classes to occupy the several grades according to a prescribed proportion.

When vacancies exist in a division the division commander will ascertain from the G.H.Q. if replacements are available. If he receives a negative reply he will forward recommendations for promotions to the G.H.Q. If replacements are available, he will forward recommendations for filling vacancies by promotion. The chief of staff department will also sign statements regarding vacancies as prescribed in the G.O.

JAPAN AND ITALY PRESS CLAIMS FOR TREATY LAND GAIN

Threaten to Leave Paris Conference Unless Concessions Be Made

BOCHE YIELD TO DEMANDS Will Send Suitable Delegates to Meet Allies But Want Right to Discuss Terms

With the somewhat uncertain announcement that the German envoys will arrive on Monday, the promise of publication of a summary of the peace terms at that time and final arrangements being made for the event toward which the war-weary world has been looking for nearly five months, a series of discouraging obstacles has arisen which carried a stock of nervousness.

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At first the Germans responded to the Allied invitation to attend the Versailles conference by announcing that they would send certain minor officials empowered only to carry the terms back to Berlin. This move, heralded in the press as a fresh German insult, was followed by an order that only plenipotentiaries of equal rank and power with the Allied delegates would be received. In response, the Berlin government has replied with a list of suitable persons, but demands that they be given the right to discuss the terms and have full right of circulation.

Needless to say, this will not be granted. The delegation will go from Spa in a special train under military guard direct to Versailles, where it will be quartered in a hotel and where its members will be confined, without the privilege of intercourse with newspaper men.

JAPAN AND ITALY MAY WITHDRAW

Two other unfortunate events in the proceedings of the conference this week were the definite threats of Japan and Italy to withdraw from the conference, demanding satisfaction of their anti-war claims as set forth in different secret treaties with the Allies, exclusive of the United States.

Sirnor Orlando affirmed solemnly that public sentiment in Italy would not permit him to fix his signature to an agreement which did not give his country the city of Fiume. Other concessions on the Adriatic not included in the Treaty of London were also demanded. President Wilson, in no way committed to any binding agreements, withdrew from the Council of Four, which the Italian delegates had already deserted, but no solution was forthcoming. Then President Wilson rejoining the council, a compromise was offered to the Italians, the result of which is unknown at this writing.

Japan proved equally stubborn in regard to the Shantung peninsula which she took, with the railway and port of Kiao-Chow, from Germany and which she had promised to return to the Chinese, from whom the Germans stole it, but she now demands that it first be ceded to her.

George Washington Back in Service

The George Washington, hurriedly ordered to Brest from drydock in the States by President Wilson, has been permitted to return to America by the President, who did not wish to withhold from service a troopship that might be utilized to carry soldiers during this unforeseen delay. The Arizona, a warship and not a troop carrier, is being held at Brest for the President, and the optimistic followers of the Conference still see light ahead of the war.

The continued rumors of an American return to America by the beginning of the war Japan promised to return this territory to the Chinese, from whom the Germans stole it, but she now demands that it first be ceded to her.

ARMY OF 2,000,000 FED, CLOTHED, PAID BY EFFICIENT Q.M.

History's Greatest Problem in Transporting Supplies Solved

CORPS' DUTIES BOUNDLESS

Undertook Everything from Rationing A.E.F. to Delousing It—and Achieved All

The Duke of Wellington once said with reference to certain military leaders and operations, "There are many who can lead armies; I can feed them."

Food, so important in the eyes of the victor of Waterloo, was one of the tremendous problems that confronted the quartermaster departments of the Armies engaged in this war, especially in the case of the American Army, the largest expeditionary force in history, separated from its base of supplies by more than 4,000 miles of submarine-infested water. But it was only one of the big things which the American Quartermaster Corps tackled and did well.

The Quartermaster Department of the A.E.F. not only fed the American soldier; it clothed him, it supplied him with articles of both necessity and luxury, it supplied the fuel to keep him warm and move his trains, the gasoline and oil for his automobiles and his flying machines. It picked up his scraps and saved them, it planted and tilled his gardens, it washed his clothes and waged war on that very small but very persistent enemy, the scotch. It provided him with horses and mules. It handled his baggage. And last but not least, it paid him his salary from Uncle Sam, and changed his dollars into francs and is now busy changing them back into dollars again.

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In fact, the Quartermaster Department was the one branch of service in the A.E.F. whose duties first bounded from orders. Paragraph 1600 of Army Regulations expressly provides in connection with its functions that it "attends to all matters connected with military operations which are not expressly assigned to some other bureau of the War Department."

From 38 to Over 100,000

A quartermaster personnel of 16 officers, 12 field clerks and 100 enlisted men accompanied the Baltic on the trip that brought the advance guard of the A.E.F.'s organization to France and expanded until at its high water mark in numbers on December 15, 1918, it consisted of 4,229 officers and 96,511 enlisted men. These figures do not include 600 officers and 18,000 men detached to the Motor Transport Corps and 300 officers and 13,000 men turned over to the Transportation Corps.

When the first convoy of American troops arrived at St. Nazaire on June 20, 1917, they found the first quartermaster warehouse of the A.E.F. ready to furnish them with supplies. On November 11, 1918, there were 20 general storage and issue depots operating in France, covering 8,268,586 square feet of floor space, and with additional open storage space of 10,322,583 square feet.

These were the great central pantries and warehouses of the A.E.F. The largest of them were at Givres, St. Sulpice, Montoir, Montierchaume, Paris and Is-sur-Tille, all of which carried a stock of general supplies such as subsistence, clothing, fuel and miscellaneous stores. Givres, the largest military supply depot in the world, was designed to take care of the needs of the entire S.O.S. It has a history that not even beans and canned wild can rob of romance.

Speaking of Beans and Things

And speaking of beans and things, there were exactly 20,000,000 pounds of beans waiting for us at Givres the day the war ended, in addition to flour, corn meal and other staples. Chicago's 3,000,000 people for 15 days. Givres could have met a soup line stretching from Maine to California with a confident smile with the beans and flour.

It was a good argument that spring beans come at harvest time, and that the British soldiers, during the rain-soaked hills of the Le Mans area from the general vicinity of Ballon, on the eve of departing for the States, some of the units having already arrived at St. Nazaire. Through some inexplicable handling of the beans, the units which the officers will not state—the division finds itself eight weeks ahead of the home-going schedule set by G.H.Q. some months ago.

MACHINE GUNS WILL PUT-PUT AT LE MANS

Doughboys to Show How They Peppered the Hun at Army Shoot

Continued on Page 3

Recent orders from G.H.Q. give machine guns the most interesting part of the Army and pistol shoot at Le Mans May 21, and demonstrate what they can do with the weapon so widely employed in the great war.

One platoon from each Corps will participate in a platoon problem in which it will be called on for all different classes of fire and for making known changes in line on previously known targets. The platoon commander is to be furnished with a map showing the position of the reference point and the position of the directing gun and all calculations for changes in fire will be made from this map and from the information which will be supplied to the platoon commander from time to time during the competition.

Both direct and indirect fire will be employed, the targets for the direct fire being, as nearly as possible, the same as would actually be found under battle conditions; and the targets for indirect fire those which would be found along the battle line and which the machine gunner would actually be found under battle conditions; and the targets for indirect fire those which would be found along the battle line and which the machine gunner would actually be found under battle conditions.

Each platoon will be composed of one officer and 46 men. Existing vacancies may be filled by transfer from other platoons, but a platoon is not to be composed of more than 50 men.

Each platoon will establish its own belt filling stations during the firing and will be required to keep up the ammunition supply for the machine guns. Judging of the platoons will be based on the number of hits made and their distribution and, to a certain extent, upon the length of time required for calculating fire data, each minute saved under a certain time counting a certain number of points for the platoon and each minute used over that time counting against the platoon.

RECORD BROKEN AS 68,000 EMBARK FOR HOME IN ONE WEEK

Divisions at Base Ports Ready to Go Far Ahead of Set Schedule

SAILINGS TOTAL 769,000

Brest and St. Nazaire Sending Troops Aboard Transports as Fast as They Come

Two Divisions Since April 1

At St. Nazaire the activities were equally as great as at Brest, two divisions having been sent out this month, and it is expected that many of the 29th Division will have sailed before the end of the month. The 35th Division was the first to leave and then the 25th Division bade farewell to France. Now the 29th is moving into the embarkation camp and will be well under way toward the States by the first of next week.

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This has been a week of joy and satisfaction for members of the A.E.F. The 29th Division, scheduled to leave France in June, finds itself at St. Nazaire, ready to sail eight weeks in advance of the original plan, the 36th Division reported ready for the Army of Occupation is descending upon Le Mans, the 79th Division, also due to leave in June, is at Nantes and the 33rd Division is ready to start its westward journey to Brest.

All of this is in keeping with the record of last week, when all troop movements records were broken, with total sailings of 68,013 men and 2,543 officers. This brought the total sailings for the A.E.F. up to 731,779 enlisted men and 37,923 officers. As Brest's 23,000 troops were loaded aboard waiting transports on Thursday, April 17, and here the homegoing process has been so thoroughly systematized that many of the units arriving were immediately loaded aboard the ships, without first going to the embarkation camp. The 77th Division, for example, went direct from trains to transports.

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One of the features of the sailings during the past week was the departing of 19 Base Hospital units. They are: Base Hospital 19, 20, 25, 30, 32, 35, 48, 70, 11, 26, 35, 36, 41, 47, 9, 17, 58, 67, 68.

Just a year after the 77th Division, the first of the 29th Division to come across, sailed in France, which was on April 13, 1918, the movement toward Brest and then home was starting a movement which by this time has placed practically all the divisions beyond the Atlantic. The 77th, for example, is a movement which is embroidered on the left sleeve of every member.

It was with the sending of this division abroad that the 29th Division, which had been in the States since April 1, made a record likely to stand for some time. Division Headquarters of the 77th arrived Wednesday night and left Thursday aboard the first of the 29th Division to come across, sailed in France, which was on April 13, 1918, the movement toward Brest and then home was starting a movement which by this time has placed practically all the divisions beyond the Atlantic. The 77th, for example, is a movement which is embroidered on the left sleeve of every member.

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