

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

YANKEE DIVISIONS TAKEN OUT JUST BEFORE WAR'S END

27th and 30, Relieved by British, Ready to Go in Lines Again

CASUALTIES WERE 15,480

From September 29 to October 21 Americans Advanced 16 Out of 20 Miles Gained by Corps

The morning of October 8 found the 30th Division just east of Montbrun, between Cambrai and St. Quentin, ready to jump forward on the new drive that was intended primarily to carry it across the river Selle, nine miles ahead, and eventually to take it toward the Sambre canal and river, six miles beyond the Selle.

The division sector was three miles wide and the direction of advance lay northeastward across rolling country. The Germans were known to be waiting with strong machine gun resistance at villages and farms, and the strongest defense of the enemy behind the Selle was anticipated.

The British front on both flanks of the 30th was well up to its line and at 5:10 o'clock on the morning of the 8th a general attack was made by the First French Army and the Fourth and Third British Armies, the Fourth Army having the Ninth Corps on the right, the Second American in the center and the Thirteenth Corps on the left.

The enemy met with a counter-barrage but a morning mist favored the attack and, except at the occasional villages, farms and bits of woodland, the advance across country, almost as a rule, was unopposed, with comparatively slight resistance.

By noon Brancourt and Premont had been taken in a forward sweep of about three miles and the line rested for a moment on the Bohain-Premont-Cambrai road. The 6th British Division on the right was somewhat back but the advance was resumed only the following morning all along the line.

The enemy continued to retire rapidly, offering only rear guard opposition, and all over the country behind his lines appeared the smoke and flames of buildings and supply and ammunition dumps which he was firing as he went. The destruction was particularly great in the vicinity of Bohain, one of his great depots, which lay in the sector of the 6th British Division.

Astride Metz-Lille Railroad About 5 o'clock that evening the 6th Division took the same road as on the 8th, the 20th Division was occupying Busigny and Bequigny, north and somewhat east of there, after a day's advance of four miles. At 11 o'clock on the 10th the 30th Division had come astride the western circuit of the enemy's most important railroad line, the one from Metz through Mézières and Hirsion to Valenciennes and Lille.

On the morning of the 10th, with the 25th British division up to the line on the left and the 20th on the right, the attack was again taken up. Escauport was captured on the left and, after an advance of nearly a mile, the West-Strikes of the 30th Division came into view of Vaux-Andigny on the right, were entered. But St. Souplet was on the west bank of the Selle River, almost due south of the Cateau, and the enemy had established a line of resistance on the crest of the hills east of the stream and had brought up to it reinforcements whose fire quickly held the advance. The following day was spent in cleaning up Vaux-Andigny, St. Souplet and St. Benin and advancing to the river bank commanding the railroad westward to the Cateau. On the night of October 11 the 27th Division relieved the 30th.

The front of the Fourth Army had now penetrated far to the east of the hideous desolation of the Somme valley and the shell-heaved, forested landscape of the old battle front. The enemy had been driven untroubled by war, where green fields were seen.

DIPLOMATS' JOBS FOR YANKS WHO WANT 'EM

That Is, if They Pass Exams to Be Held in Paris on May 26

The men who helped carry the American flag across France to Ebrunstein and who believe they would be winning to change O.D. for tailcoats and topers will be given a chance to enter the American diplomatic service as secretaries in the embassies and legations of the United States situated in the important capitals of the world.

Competitive examinations will be held under the auspices of the State Department at the Hotel Crillon, Place de la Concorde, Paris, on May 26. These examinations, the same in form as those held in Washington earlier in the month, will begin at 10 a.m. and will continue until all candidates have been examined. All citizens of the United States now in Europe are eligible between the ages of 21 and 40, whether in military or naval service or in civilian life.

Both written and oral tests will be demanded of the candidates and will consist of general questions in international law and diplomatic usage and possibly on such subjects as history, government and institutions. A working knowledge of French, German or Spanish is essential, and tests in one of these languages will be included.

The official announcement issued at the Hotel Crillon has been translated into English and is being distributed to the American Commission to negotiate Peace, says in part:

Application blanks and pamphlets giving information regarding the service will be sent upon application to Sidney V. Smith, Hotel de Crillon, Paris. The application should be addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States and mailed on or before May 25 to Mr. Smith at the address stated, and should be accompanied by a photograph of the applicant, his legal residence in the United States, and a certificate of his military or naval service, or of his business or other training.

VICTORY LOAN IS OVERSUBSCRIBED BY SAFE MARGIN

Monster Rally in N. Y. Opera House Sees Millions Flying Around Loose

BOND BUYERS HIT 15,000,000

Modest Croesus Bids \$5,500,000 on French 75 and Leads Field of Frenzied Investors

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, May 15.—Although no official figures are available, following the close of the Victory Loan campaign, it is certain the loan has been oversubscribed by a safe margin.

Some enthusiasts have even gone so far as to say that final figures will show six instead of the four and one-half billions asked. It is estimated there are 15,000,000 subscribers to the loan, and that all Federal Reserve districts, with possible exception of Dallas, Atlanta and San Francisco, have gone safely beyond their quotas.

Perhaps the most dramatic event of the campaign was the great rally at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, last week when the city was still many hundred millions behind its quota. Every seat was taken by representatives of all classes of citizens, from the so-called foreign colonies of the East Side, to leaders of finance and industry.

Former President William H. Taft made the principal address, following which three rally leaders took possession of the stage to conduct the sale of bonds.

Following the announcement that no subscription for more than \$100 would be taken until the small subscribers had had an opportunity to show his loyalty, people from all parts of the vast audience leaped to their feet clamoring loudly and wildly for a chance to subscribe. So excited did the subscriptions pour in that the first crowd at the adding machine which had been placed on the stage were unable to tabulate the total and had to stand for minutes and a halt, in order that they might catch up.

Limit Goes Up and Up With \$50 and \$100 subscriptions still pouring in the limit was raised to \$500, and immediately thereafter another generous response from the house. Then one enthusiast, who felt that it was about time for his group to get into it, yelled out a subscription for \$1,000, which was followed by \$1,000 offers from the boxes, orchestra and galleries.

In the same way the limit was raised to \$5,000, and exactly similar response to \$10,000. And then, with interest still intense, a French 75, which had seen much service on the Western front, was dragged into the arena and offered for the highest bidder, with the understanding that every bidder on the gun must allot his particular highest bid as a subscription to the loan—a "Chinese auction," the leaders readily called it.

Immediately there came a bid of a million dollars, and the house went wild. Several bids of a million followed, and the picture dispersed with occasional half millions, until finally the gun went to a man who wouldn't permit the committee to announce his name, and who had bid \$5,500,000, the gross subscriptions brought in by bidding on the 75 netted \$25,000,000.

\$13,000,000 for Portrait More \$50 and \$100 subscriptions were collected next, after which the latest portrait of King Albert, the work of a famous Belgian painter, was offered to the highest bidder. The following day was netted \$32,000,000, Commissioner Wallis, of the New York Police Department, getting it with his highest subscription of \$13,000,000, after a spine-chilling contest among four men who thought nothing of tossing quarter and half million increases into the pot.

A copy of "La Libre Belgique," Belgium's secret war paper, brought in \$2,500,000, and then the audience was given one minute to make last chance subscriptions. At this the people almost fell out of their seats and the boxes in the center and galleries roared. In all, one rally leader called out: "Half minute remains! Quarter of a minute remains! Ten seconds remains! Five seconds, two seconds! Minute up, and last chance gone forever!" the crowd was in a frenzy; and the shout that went up when the announcement was made that the grand total of subscriptions for the evening was \$125,000,000, rocked the roof and the rafters.

Biggest Mass Meeting Total The total smashed to smithereens the previous mass meeting subscriptions for all loans by \$1,000,000. The gross was more than had been earlier in the campaign, when the G.H.Q. Band had played at the Hippodrome.

The result at the Metropolitan produced a regular orgy of subscriptions, unparalleled in the history of the country, and it undoubtedly produced a profound effect upon the nation which up to that time was more than a billion and a half short—and this with only two days left in which to finish the job. By midnight Saturday saw the work completed in typical American whirlwind style.

POOR OLD ARMY CARS CAN'T GO BACK HOME

Faithful Servants of A.E.F. Are Sold in France, and Will Stick Here

An A.E.F. automobile doesn't go through a dehousing plant when it has finished its work in France, but a lot of other things happen to it after the American Army is withdrawn.

Neither may the truck that hauled the rations on the car that carried the general forward to returning to the United States. As combat divisions leave for home, cars and trucks used by them go to overhauling plants and are there put in thoroughly good condition, to be later sold here in France.



MOTHERS' LETTERS, WRITTEN ALL OVER A.E.F., ARE ON WAY

Mauretania Bears Majority of 875,000 Messages En Route Home

Ask the C.O.'s whose units range all the way from Archangel to Rotterdam, Marseille and Brest.

Ask the postal carriers who handled the letters until they came into the hands of the P.E.S.

Ask the Postal Express men who did the sorting in the post offices, on the trains, and at the base ports.

Ask the Stevedores who handled the mail and the ship's officers who watched the thousands upon thousands of bags disappearing into the vast holds.

Finally, ask the soldiers themselves, and, in due course of time, ask the loved ones to whom they wrote.

They'll tell you with one voice that the last Mother's Day letter-writing carnival in the A.E.F. was such a whopping big success that even old Noah Webster himself could never find a word which could adequately describe it.

Mauretania Bears the Load About 875,000 envelopes—each one bearing the precious and right-of-way words "Mother's Letters" in the upper right-hand corner—found their way into the mail bags Sunday night and Monday, and through to the coast. And the proudest ship in all the fleet that is on the high seas today bound westward is the Mauretania, which is bearing the bulk of the messages from American soldiers to the best mothers in all the world.

Figures show that there were just about twice as many soldiers in France on Mother's Day this year as there were on that day last year. But the letters have not suffered in consequence, for in a year several well-known changes have taken place. First and foremost, there is no longer such a thing as war. The Yanks this year didn't have to write their communications with one eye cocked on the sky or both ears open for orders of movement.

Easier Job This Year But last year they wrote lovingly, but hurriedly; and they didn't have the chance to write much, nor of matters military. There were no huge chains of comfortable recreation huts stretching like a network over the A.E.F. Conditions, in short, were just ideal.

This year it was all different. With the possible exception of Brest and one or two other places that repudiate the word "recreation," the A.E.F. was just what it was last Sunday was ideal. Spring was present and rampant. It was such a quiet Sunday as could be imagined anywhere before the folks were going to church, sitting on their front porches, laughing at the comic supplement—and most of them, no doubt, writing themselves. It was such a day when the simple word "home" just took complete possession of every one and made him remember those dear ones whose thoughts, he knew, were on him, and who were shortly to receive concrete evidence that he was reciprocating.

Taps Goes by the Board Such a volume of scribbling as had never before been seen in France started to flow from revellito to taps—and after. No one not even the top kick himself, could be caught but blind on hearing the bug's call that he had been on K.P. all day and had had no chance to write until after mess. Bilets, barracks, casernes, tents, recreation huts, cantinens—all were filled. Thousands of letters started out with: "Dear Mother—I am sitting out under a big tree amid the most wonderful scenery you ever

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"HENRY'S PAL TO HENRY" FIRST VOLUNTEERS TO REPLACE A. OF O. ARE AMONGST US

1,000 of 'Em Landed at Brest, With Former A.E.F. Men Included

The first thousand volunteers raised in the United States for the Army of Occupation landed in Brest yesterday from the Agamemnon. Among them are many silver strippers as well as men for whom the Atlantic in O.D. was not a novelty, for many former members of the A.E.F. are among the incoming Yanks.

Brest has had plenty of time to think up a welcome for the volunteers, because information received at G.H.Q. several weeks ago led to the belief that the first 1,000 would land at Brest from the Von Steuben on May 2, and the classification camp at St. Aignan was all set to receive them at that time.

20,000 Sign Up in States Other units of 1,000 men each will arrive in France closely following the first group, according to news from the States. Recruiting of volunteers to relieve these men of the Army of Occupation entailed to earliest discharge because of distress in their families and other reasons, has resulted in the enlistment of approximately 20,000 men.

Coincident with the recruiting of volunteers for service in France, the War Department in the States is seeking volunteers for service in Russia. It has been officially decided, however, that the United States is increasing its forces in Russia. The volunteers for Russia, it was stated, will relieve men serving in Russia who have pressing need of return home.

549 Join Over Here Re-enlistments in the A.E.F. this week reached a total of 549, since the authority to recruit was received. A great many applications for re-enlistments are still being held up, however, pending settlement of certain questions involved in the change of status in individual cases. For instance, while 22 men had been re-enlisted in the 5th Division, there were 175 men in the division who had expressed their desire to remain in the service another year. In the 7th Division 116 men re-enlisted in one day.

ANIMAL MASCOTS TO GET TRIP TO STATES Company Pets Now Treated as Baggage After Quarantine Formalities

The War Department at Washington has notified the Transportation Service at G.H.Q., that dogs, cats and similar animals on active duty as troop mascots, may be carried as passenger baggage and so listed on baggage reports. Every animal will be subjected to inspection, and will be reported by baggage inspectors, U.S. Customs Service.

The Department of Agriculture requires that sheep, shorthorn, colts and German and Belgian police dogs be quarantined for 19 to 12 days before they trot across the game plank.

If dogs or other animals should be found infested with cooties while at an embarkation port, they will be put through the de-lousing the same as the rest of their outfit, after which they will be subjected to an examination by a veterinary officer. If found free from disease, a certificate will be issued to the owner of the mascot and attached to the animal, which will then be placed aboard a homeward bound transport as a member of the A.E.F., with all rights and privileges, including that of delivering a welcoming yelp at the Golden Gate Ferry.

CHIEF Q.M. LOSES HIS VERY OWN KIT

Boss of all Baggage Sleuths Is S.O.L. in Own Game

The boss of all the baggage sleuths of the A.E.F.—those wily Yanks who have located more wandering, boding, rolls and staved baggage bags than Sherlock Holmes himself could ever discover—has gone and lost his own kit.

"This is sad, but true; one clothing roll, one musette bag, and one dispatch bag with the name of the Chief Quartermaster, Col. John T. Knight, painted all over them, have disappeared. And the Baggage Service which handled them is one of the many bureaus supervised by Colonel Knight.

The Chief Q.M. himself is not to blame, but it's all in the family, for the said bag roll and musette were in the possession of his son, Capt. John T. Knight, Jr., when they faded into thin air from the officers' coach on the Paris-Metz express on April 13.

"SIR, THE C.W.S. IS SHOOTING POOL WITH THE M.T.C."

Army's S.O.S. in Italy Numbers Only 26, but It Gets Results

The S.O.S. of the A.E.F. in Italy, officially known as Base Section No. 8, is skam-like in size and structure and as skillfully put together as these mosaics which fascinate American tourists in the shop windows around the Spanish steps in Rome.

Its personnel until recently comprised but 21 enlisted men and two officers. Most of these men are whole branches of the service by themselves and remind one of the time when the Squadunk Fire Department was at the picnic with his wife and children. It is a new study in proportions.

The Medical Supply Dept personnel may be taking its afternoon off in town, or the Motor Transport Corps and the Chemical Warfare Service may be found shooting a quiet game of billiards in a nearby café.

The R.T.O. and the Salvage Corps can be located in the person of a Californian of the broad lines of far western architecture.

While the war was on, this miniature S.O.S. was located in Verona—the town where Juliet loved and was loved by Romeo. The famous balcony is still to be seen there. Supplies had to come from France and be distributed from the Italian base to Treviso, Udine, Cormons in Austria, and Plumb by trucks. After the armistice the base was transferred to Alessandria.

An added task—one calculated to test the reliability of any Q.M. Corps—was the getting of supplies into Dalmatia and Montenegro to the American Troops.

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CAPITAL CITY OF A.E.F. SCHEDULED TO CLOSE IN JUNE

Chaumont Will Yield to Paris and Coblenz as G.H.Q. Centers

IN OPERATION 19 MONTHS

Haute-Marne Town Saw American Army Grow From Handful to Great Fighting Force

Chaumont, Haute-Marne, which, since September 1, 1917, has been the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces, will soon be known as G.H.Q. A. E. F., no longer.

For this seat of the Commander-in-Chief and the heads of the American General Staff is scheduled soon to fold its tents and surrender silently to Paris and Coblenz.

A chart issued by the statistics branch of the General Staff, Hq., S.O.S., at Tours, lists Chaumont for closing some time in June.

Though no official announcement has yet been made, the various sub-sections of the General Staff at Chaumont have been cutting down personnel, in compliance with the policy adopted of sending all men home whose services can be spared, and have been making other preparations for closing down.

Tentative plans which called for the removal to Antwerp of G-1, administration, and the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces, if they were to function for the Army of Occupation, in all probability will be modified, in view of the speedy evacuation of troops, and the likelihood that even if the Belgian city were used for an indefinite time as a base the wheels would scarcely begin to revolve smoothly before orders would be coming denuding the occupied area of all Yanks.

It is expected that the offices of the Adjutant General and the Judge Advocate General will move to Paris, and the telephone and wire facilities with Washington are so readily available.

The training section, G-5, already has some branch offices in Paris, and will have the major part of its activities in connection with the athletic, entertainment and educational program will be conducted for 21 days at Chaumont, and the French work of G-3, operations, has constantly diminished, and the task of compiling official reports and material is nearly completed.

Thus Paris, which cradled the A.E.F. following the arrival of the first American contingent to France in June, 1917, is to witness the departure of the American Expeditionary Force from the scene of the American battle drama in Europe.

From the day, September 3, 1917, that General Pershing took up his official quarters in Room 510 of the Hotel de France barracks in Chaumont, up to the signing of the armistice, stirring events took place on the battlefield. The A.E.F. grew from a mere handful to a military fighting force of 2,000,000 men, defenses were planned which baffled the enemy, and offensives carried out which swept him from the soil of France. The day of his capitulation found the projects, efficiency and enthusiasm of the A.E.F. capital at high-water mark.

VICTORY RIBBONS IN HANDS OF A.E.F. NOW

Q.M.C. Starts to Hand Out Decoration—Homegoers Come First

Distribution of Victory Medal Ribbons has begun in the A.E.F.

The Q.M. at Hq., S.O.S., Tours, gave out the first 100 last Monday to staff officers and "first come." Lots of officers came around too late.

These ribbons, which are temporary substitutes authorized to be worn by members of the A.E.F. pending the coming of the Allied Victory Medal, are attached to metal strips that serve as pins. The whole is so arranged that the pin and ribbon may be used later for suspending the medals to be issued.

The pins and ribbons are being manufactured in Paris by a French firm and it is expected that deliveries will reach 40,000 a day after June 1. Orders have been placed for 900,000 of the ribbons.

Wearers of the ribbons are authorized to sport a bronze star thereon for every one of the eleven major operations of the A.E.F. in which they had part, and a silver star for every official citation for which no medal has already been awarded. For this purpose 1,000,000 bronze stars and 1,000 silver stars have been ordered.

The ribbons and pins are to be issued to enlisted men, and sold to officers for 5 cents. The plan is to give first chance on the ribbon to troops at base ports preparing for embarkation. Other troops will be supplied as soon as deliveries are made in sufficient quantities. They are to be given out at Brest, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux, Marseilles, St. Le Mans, St. Aignan, Tours, Chaumont, Paris and at places within the Third Army area.

The parcels-from-home lid is partially off. Aunt Maria wants to send her nephew in France an umbrella or a pair of rubbers, or if "She" wants to send through a parcel filled with goodies, they can do so now without having to present at the post office a request from the soldier's commanding officer.

In short, the Postmaster-General has removed all restrictions on mailing parcels from the States to members of the A.E.F. Though no official reason went through military channels, the fact that so many troops have gone home, thus cutting down tremendously the number of parcels that would have to be handled, may be at the bottom of the new order.

The lid is not completely off, however. The regulation seven-pound rule still holds good.

19 MEN PER MINUTE NEW LOADING MARK AS BREST HUSTLES

Millionth Yank Sped Home Just Six Months After Date of Armistice

HUN THREAT OF NO AVAIL

A.E.F. Will Continue to Carry Out Sailings Program According to Plan, or Even Better

The German threat not to sign the peace treaty has not held up the A.E.F. embarkation program.

The sailings for the first 11 days of May were 80,722. Twenty-one thousand boarded ship on Mother's Day.

Orders sending the 6th and 7th Divisions into the Army of Occupation have been countermanded.

Indications are that the plans announced for a new S.O.S. for the Army of Occupation with headquarters at Antwerp will be abandoned.

Reliable cable dispatches from Washington quote Secretary Baker as saying that the Army of Occupation could not be held longer than four months after the official peace proclamation.

Divisional movements promise the realization of the schedule calling for the embarkation of all divisions, with the exception of the seven Regular Army outfits, by June 12.

At Brest the last of the 33rd is leaving, the first contingents of the 39th getting off, and the 80th coming in from Le Mans.

St. Nazaire is hurrying the 29th and 79th away in order to make room for the 88th, expected May 17, and the 89th, expected May 20. Bordeaux is getting rid of the last units of the 78th and 82nd Divisions.

Toward Le Mans are headed the 36th and 88th, with the 51st under orders to follow.

Record Turn Around To take care of the 315,000 sailings scheduled for May, and to clear France of all divisions except those of the Third Army by June 12, heroic efforts are being made by the Troop Movement Bureau.

The sailings for the first week in May fell below normal to 28,500, due to lack of ships and unusual sea storms, but the next four days saw the home-going procession again marching double time with 51,128 Yanks taking ship.

A sample of the kind of work being done to push the May schedule through to a success, the turn-around of the Mount Vernon at Brest on May 9 deserves special mention. This great ship, which left Brest at 11 a.m., loaded 8,834 troops, 657 of whom were convalescent patients, and left for the States the same day at 4 p.m. This turn-around and reloading in five hours sets a new record of 19 men loaded per minute.

It's getting to be a great race among the ships. The Great Northern, one of the world's fastest craft, is speeding toward New York in an effort to cop the record for a round trip. Sailing from New York to Brest and back in 10 days, she will be starting back to New York with a load of Yanks six hours later, she is trying to make the round trip in 13 days.

Big Fleet Coming News from all the ports is encouraging. Brest reports that a big fleet is nearing that port that can handle with ease the 45,000 waiting doughboys ready to sail, and that the Emperor of another of the great German ships, and only slightly smaller than the Leviathan, is ready for her O.D. cargo.

St. Nazaire sends word that 27 ships are due to come into that port by May 21, and that prospects are therefore fine that St. Nazaire will get over the top with the 100,000 troops for her this month, too.

Bordeaux hopes to get the last units of the 82nd and 76th on the sea within the next few days.

Last Friday the ships in port at Brest were the Steiena, Imperator, Charleston, Seattle, Mount Vernon and Valencia. Ships due to arrive during the past week were the Montana, North Carolina, Hunter, K.A. Victoria, Zepplin, America, Grand Waldorse, Leviathan, Harrisburg, Agamemnon, April, St. Louis, Pacific, Ussie, Finland, Mobile, Patricia, New Jersey and the George Washington.

The list of boats scheduled to sail from St. Nazaire during the week were the Santa Teresa, the Tiger, the Virginia, the Shoshone, the Rijndam and the Ancon.

Million Mark Passed May 11 The one-millionth member of the A.E.F. to return to the States since the armistice went aboard ship Mother's Day, May 11. Back of him the history of the home-bound troop movement stretches in a series of milestones across the past 19 months, great credit upon the A.E.F. Troop Movement Bureau.

It so happened that it was exactly six months from the day from the date of the armistice that this event took place, making an average of 166,666 members of the A.E.F. returned each month during that time. The tempo of the movement, however, has been carried out in the last four months. The troop movement home up to May by months were as follows:

Table showing troop movement statistics by month from November to April, with totals for May 11 and Grand Total.

677 Ships Have Been Used Six hundred and seventy-seven boats of every type have left the ports of France, England and Italy since November 11, 1918, carrying at least one member of the A.E.F. home. Some of these were, however, cargo boats.