

FIRST AIR DEPOT OF A.E.F. AT FRONT FAST WINDING UP

Colombey-les-Belles Supplied Fighting Squadrons to the End

BOCHE BOMBS NEVER GOT IT

Yank Ingenuity Made Station Powerful Factor in Furnishing "Eyes of Infantry"

In a little green valley, hidden away amid the hills of the Lorraine region, 16 kilometers south of Toul, the blows of countless bombers are being today with the crash of falling walls and the reverberating roar of giant airplanes.

Air Spearhead of Front

It was the concrete, pulsating precipitate of the 10,000-American-airplane dream which dangled before the eyes of the American and Allied public in the early days of the United States participation, a little network of barracks and hangars and workshops, of narrow and standard gauge railroad tracks, and of bomb dumps, all so skillfully camouflaged that no German ever found them.

Spring Saw Work Jump

The spring of 1918 saw the First Air Depot at Colombey-les-Belles, France, under the command of Major Lafayette Escadrille, now the 103rd Aero Squadron, had been transferred to the American Army, and had received at its disposal the complement of enlisted personnel from the States. Henceforth it received replacement and supplies from Colombey-les-Belles.

When Yank Planes Arrived

The first Liberty plane was delivered July 2, the 1,000th October 20, 1918. The first actual flight of an American-built plane over the lines of combat was on August 7, 1918.

For Those Who Fell

And there for two drawers, lying a lot of plain field table against the wall which tell the story of America's dead and wounded aviators. On the right, a list was declared there were 150 missing first. A six months' painstaking search by Capt. George W. Zinn, former member of the Lafayette Escadrille, has proved this total to be about nine or ten. The graves of all the others have been found, and there is some hope for the others, even though there seem to be no clues as to where they were last seen.

Don't Call Farmers Farmers Any More

It's "Agricultural Engineers," Contend A.E.F. Garden Experts

Agricultural men of the A.E.F. stationed at the National School of Horticulture at Versailles and in the Versailles Garden Service last week took first steps in a new program for placing farming among the professions and sciences and linking together its development in all countries.

Prospect Unlikely, Even if Rule Is Lifted, Say A. of O. In-the-Knowers

There is speculation throughout the American Army of Occupation as to the regulations which will govern fraternization following the signing of peace.

Will Yank and Boche Chum in Peace Time?

The second lieutenant is to have his inning on the army vaudeville stage. A new sketch written at the Tours Play Factory is entitled "Pickling 'em Off." It is a gentle satire on the bright professional and the gold-bar wearers in satisfactory fashion.

Wood Shipped to Third Army

The wood shop of the Ordnance depot has furnished all the woodwork material for the outfit, and has boxed for shipment all outgoing ordnance to the Third Army and for outfitting posts.

127,911 U.S. Rifles Saved

Up to April 1, the small arms and machine gun division has received 375 crates of rifles, and 14,837 German rifles were received, of which 23,553 were shipped.

STILL WEARING TIN HAT

When, on November 11, 1918, the signing of the armistice suspended hostilities, there was left on the battlefields of France and Belgium such a vast array of war material that only when it was gathered together could anyone begin to comprehend the immense quantities and huge diversity of what was needed for modern conflicts.

Salvaging Guns IS NO SMALL JOB

Just Ask Ordnance Repair Shop at Mehun if You Think It Is

Despite the fact that salvage squads followed the fighting men continuously, picking up discarded armaments and equipment, the personnel of the Ordnance Repair Shop at Mehun, France, has been literally swamped with the tasks involved in picking up what the salvage squads had been forced to leave behind.

REMEMBRANCES OF WAR

THE WESTERN THEATER OF THE EUROPEAN WAR. The clearest detailed map in one sheet with colored lines showing the German Invasion, the Historical Line where the Armistice was signed, and also the Allies' Line of Occupation.

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A BUCK'S DIARY

Proving That a Cook Can Cut Out a Top, and a Top Can Cut Out a Buck and You'd Ought to Be Off Girls Anyway

Sunday, April 20.—Well I might as well start in and tell the hole thing just as it happened because this is a lot of fellows who know how it did happen and if I don't put it down here it might get lost.

Monday, April 21.—Well I might as well start in and tell the hole thing just as it happened because this is a lot of fellows who know how it did happen and if I don't put it down here it might get lost.

Tuesday, April 22.—More rain. No drill. Still sick.

Wednesday, April 23.—Getting better today. Still more rain and no drill. Heard today the division is going to leave on the 25th.

Thursday, April 24.—Got up this morning feeling fine and the sun was shining so of course we had to drill. The old Top has found out about the cook being out with his girl and he is hard boiled about it.

Friday, April 25.—No rain today as usual so we drilled. If I was sick it would probably snow. We are going to start packing up day after tomorrow so as to be ready to move on the 10th of May as planned.

Saturday, April 26.—Had inspection this a.m. at ten and was to have the rest of the day off but it started raining at 11. This afternoon had another inspection only a different kind of inspection from the one we had this a.m. Well there ain't two Marguerites after all. The cook was out with my girl in the first place.

Sunday, April 27.—I felt so ashamed at having written for \$50 that I went to the post office to get this letter back, but unfortunately it had gone.—Hawtizer (5th Field Artillery).

First Stude: Did you compare that French translation of Rossetti's sonnets? Second Stude: Compare hell! I don't even understand the English of it. Denis Mots (Clermont-Ferrand Infantry).

Private Spratt of S.O.S. fame says soldiering is a dog's life. "First they make you wear dog tags and live in pup tents. As if that weren't enough, they want you to come out when they whistle."—Silent Salvo (7th Field Artillery).

Our AEF Contemporaries

When the question arose of naming the present periodical, the first suggestion for the title came from an ardent admirer of the old Dana publications, who proposed that it be named the "Sun." On account of the English word applying to too many papers, however, he suggested the Latin word "Sol" for the sheet.

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The great increase in heavy motor traffic is disturbing all road authorities. It is the one product that will do this surely and economically. It has been used on thousands of miles of road way all over the country, including the Army cantonments, with satisfactory results.

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PIONEER MEMORIES IN ITALIAN P.E.S.

Couriers Who Slept and Ate When Lucky Agree With Sherman

When the main body of that fraction of the A.E.F. leaned to Italy penetrated the pitchy tunnels of the Alps—missing the scenic beauties and fun Hannibal's men enjoyed in scaling the roof of the world—there came hot on their heels, but quietly, a lieutenant of the P.E.S., whose object in life was not to let these Yanks get lost to the outside world.

Within the week he acquired an assistant and established postoffice headquarters at Genoa, "the natural shrine for all Americans." When the troops moved through to the Piave front, Minnie was selected as a center for more efficient distribution. There was no time to stand about for a palatial setting in that already overcrowded city. The only available course was to sidetrack the first "Regio Poste" car that rolled in from Modane and label it "Hq. A.P.O. 901," which was done. It was a happy idea and the English, who were on the lookout for clever schemes, adopted the same plan, with the result that the percentage of rolling stock in the service of the "Regio Poste" was slightly reduced.

From this requisitioned railway coach were dispatched couriers to such distant points as Padua, Rome, Verona and Ferrara. With clock-like regularity the couriers brought the gladness and cheer that only letters and such like can bring to over 11,000 Americans doing their bit from the top down to the heel and toe of Italy.

The officer and 16 men whose task it was to keep the couriers on their toes was a difficult task to handle. While France is a known quantity, Italy is hardly more than a question mark. The couriers were to be kept in a constant state of alertness. The doughboy knows more about the "sweet heart of the world" from actual contact than the anti-hellum Cook tourist could ever know. Tours were made to Ferrara, Padua, Chaumont, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Poggia. To get around to these points with catch-as-catch-can meals and sleep on route in rubber-neck wagons, to go distances covered by the men who conveyed the daily batch of smiles and tears to the outposts in Italy, French distances are not such a picnic. Tours were made to Ferrara, Padua, Chaumont, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Poggia. To get around to these points with catch-as-catch-can meals and sleep on route in rubber-neck wagons, to go distances covered by the men who conveyed the daily batch of smiles and tears to the outposts in Italy, French distances are not such a picnic.

Every one of the 5,720 boxes received was delivered at Christmas time, in spite of the holiday increase in mail. The average number of sacks handled hit 1,100 a day, and the total number of sacks registered, 1,000 re-addressed and 8,900 registered.

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