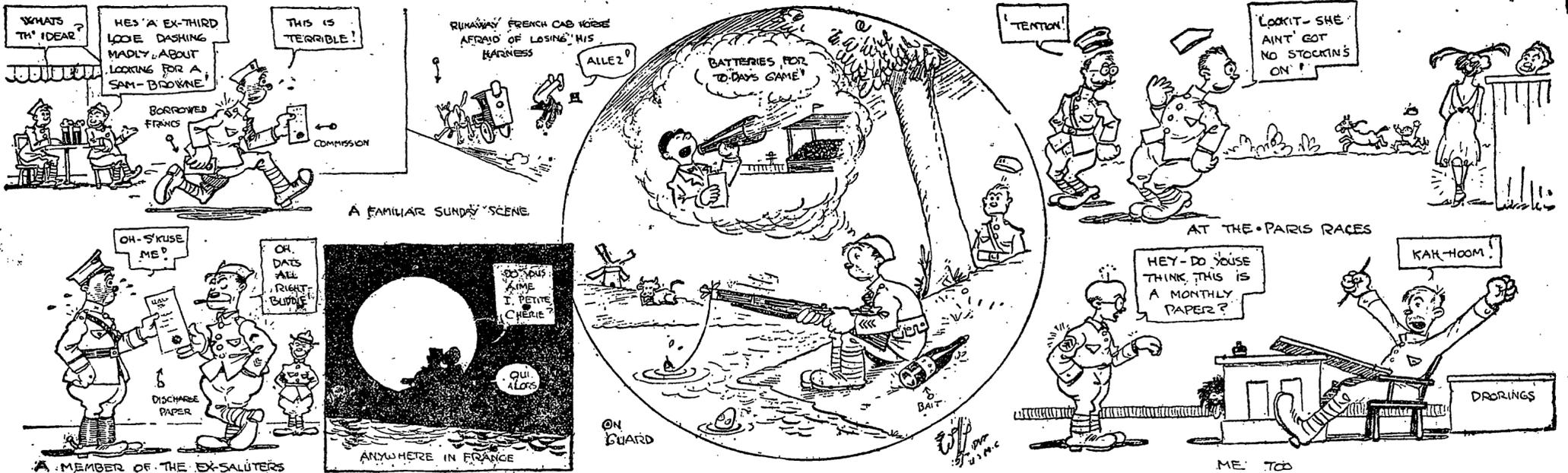


SPRING FEVER

—By WALLGREN



A.E.F. WILL BE JUST TWO YEARS OF AGE ON NEXT SUNDAY

June 8, 1917, Saw C-in-C. and 181 Others Step Off Gangplank

CIVVIES WORN AT START

'Twas Back in Submarine Days and Ship's Captain Didn't Take Any Extra Chances

Two years old! Next Sunday the A.E.F., as an organization, will be exactly that, for it was on June 8, 1917, that it first set foot on foreign soil. As newly born infants should be, it was a tiny thing, but, as a healthy infant should do, it grew into a husky individual—a bit too husky for comfort, if we are to believe certain disgruntled gentlemen of Berlin and vicinity.

On that June morning in 1917, when General Pershing and his party stepped off the gangplank at Liverpool, the A.E.F. numbered just 182—the Commander-in-Chief, 21 field officers, 30 line officers, 56 clerks, 4 interpreters and 67 enlisted men. And the Kaiser chuckled at this ridiculous handful that thought it was going to be an army.

Six days later Paris, which looked deeper and saw farther, was not so kindly and welcoming toward them and the Kaiser in his wisdom chuckled again at the handful.

But on the morning of the following day, back in the North River at home, a line of transports were anchored and set out for France with the first contingent of troops to swell the handful into an Army of 2,000,000 men. And all over America thousands were concentrating in camps to swell that handful further.

In "Atlantic Port" Times

There were no brass bands or martial glory to accompany the departure of General Pershing and his staff from "Atlantic Port" on May 28, 1917. But exactly one year afterward, on May 28, 1918, the Americans, making their first attack in France, showed the world that the A.E.F. had grown to and what it was capable of by taking Cantigny. And two years afterward, on May 28, 1919, the war was won and more than half the A.E.F. was back home and in civies again.

Strange to say, it was in civies that the first contingent came over. The submarine was then at the height of its career, and through the depths of the sea, the Commander-in-Chief of the most newly enlisted buck, wore civilian clothes. For the Baltic was a passenger liner, and the White Star officials had explained that the presence of even one man in uniform was interpreted by U-boat commanders as sufficient excuse for shelling lifeboats.

Work began as soon as the ships had been headed by the A.E.F. and to be organized, and every one of its 182 original members had his share in it. And, of course, there were boat drills, which most of the rest of us remember not too cordially. And there were French lessons. And there were jobs in the arm. And there was seasickness.

Still, the original Yanks had time to read the wireless news and to learn that the Root Mission had reached Russia, and that in America 10,000,000 young Americans had upset all their preconceptions and rebellion by registering in a quiet and businesslike way for the selective draft.

Then, on the morning of June 8, the Baltic docked at Liverpool, and the party became really the A.E.F. as they first set foot in England. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were drawn up on the pier to greet them and a special train was waiting to carry them to London. In the English capital the officers were quartered at the Savoy Hotel, while the famous Tower of London, where the little princes were murdered, became a temporary barracks for the enlisted men.

General Pershing called upon King George on the next day at Buckingham Palace. "I am very glad to welcome you," said the British monarch to the American soldier. "It has always been my dream that some day the English-speaking nations should fight side by side in the greatest cause that any nation could fight for—civilization."

The few days in London were filled with dinners and receptions, but there was organized demonstration, and it remained for Paris to show with what enthusiasm the new Allies were welcomed. No preparations had been made, but when the Paris noonday papers on June 13 blazoned the news that the Americans were due to arrive in a few hours, a crowd that made traffic impossible lined the streets outside of the Gare du Nord.

As General Pershing stepped off the train he was greeted by Marshal Joffre, a company of French police presented arms, and the Garde Republicaine band broke into the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Triumph in Paris

From there through the boulevards to the Place de la Concorde it was a triumphal procession. The welcome was stupendous. The French authorities expressed their regret that word had not been sent in advance so that they might have tendered a fitting reception, but it is difficult to see how grants of money and weeks of

HOME GIRL FIRST IN YANK'S HEART

Still, 30 a Day Are Married to Mademoiselles of France

Predictions made in the beginning of the war that if an Army of 2,000,000 men was sent to France not more than 60,000 of them would marry while they were away, has been disproved by the A.E.F.

According to the best authorities, not more than 6,000 officers and soldiers will be married in France when the last soldier goes home. The pessimistic sweet-heart who made that prediction may not be among them, but at least there are more than 50,000 girls in the United States who are the happier that, despite her famed beauty and attractiveness, the girl of France has failed to win the Yank to the extent it was first feared.

But even if she has not lived up to what was expected of her, the mademoiselle is daily gaining new victories and it is estimated that about 30 a day are being married to Americans at the present time. The increase in the marriage rate toward the end is due to several causes, the most important being that the Yank has more time now to think of love than during the hostilities and because it has been made much easier for him to be married through the courtesy of the French Minister of Justice and the Procureur de la Republique in Paris.

Banns Needn't Be Published

Time honored traditions and customs have been put aside as to make it easier for the American soldier to marry during a short leave period, without the usual lengthy publication of banns. It is even possible now for a soldier, who is likely to be ported being sent to any for his papers in the morning and have them in time in the afternoon to be married at the convenience of the Major.

The Major is the absolute dictator as to whether he will marry two people or not and he cannot be brought to hurry except by diplomacy.

Although the roll has been heaviest among the enlisted men, many officers have married while in the A.E.F. Recently a record number of officers, one major, three captains and three lieutenants, applied in one day for assignments.

Not all marriages in the A.E.F. have been between the Yank and the mademoiselle. The English girls, including members of the W.A.C., attached to the A.E.F., have gained many victories over the Americans in love.

AUTO SCHOOL SENDS 770 P.G. MECHANICS

Taps Sounds for Motor Doctors at College at Romorantin

Home-ward-bound movements caused taps to be heard on the last semester of the largest automobile mechanics' training school in the A.E.F., at Romorantin, this week.

Over 1,015 men were admitted to the school during its life, and of this number 770 were graduated and certified as being good automobile mechanics. The last contingent of students left this week for their own divisions, which are in the A. O. or moving to the base ports.

Not only have the men been trained as general mechanics, but many specialists have graduated from the school. This school was started September 20, 1918, when 200 men and three officers with 200 students moved to Romorantin and took over the old Savoy Hotel and its grounds.

At the present time there are approximately 10,255 motor vehicles of all descriptions in the Motor Reserve Park, where the school was held. These include American cars as follows: Passenger cars, 364; trucks, 2,917; ambulances, 2,062; motorcycles, 78; motorcycles and sidecars, 319; and mopeds, 736. There are 2,430 foreign-made vehicles at the park. About 1,000 cars are arriving at the park every week and classified as to condition and make and then put in separate field parks, where they await to be sold by the American Government.

preparation could have evoked a more soulfuling spectacle.

Through the immense throngs the automobiles bearing the embryonic A.E.F. moved at a snail's pace. French soldiers in Paris on permission leaped on the running boards and led the cheer. American flags appeared from mysterious sources and fluttered everywhere, while flowers were scattered in profusion from every balcony window.

The English language blended with the French, for Australians and Canadians lent their voices to the tumult. And here and there might be found an American—perhaps a member of the Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps or the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps, then serving with the British. Their services stripes all forever rank even those of the Commander-in-Chief.

France greeted the 182 tumultuously, for it knew that it was a token of the Army that was to stand shoulder to shoulder with its French and British brothers and wipe the Hun scourge from the map.

WITH THE REGULAR DIVISIONS ON THE RHINE

In the club rooms of the Knights of Columbus at Coblenz and in the main lobby of the Post Hall are two bulletin boards, both of them as characteristically American as the genuine Yankee twang and the doughboy's desire to call it a war and go home. The E.C. board contains sketches, bits of poetry, cartoons, take-offs on various personages in the Third Army and announcements. There is always a crowd in front, reading and smiling. And here, picked at random, are some of the things on the Post Hall board.

Program for the coming week's entertainment at the Post Hall: an act seeking a watch, lost by a leave man when he was taking an excursion on the Rhine; a card from the States, bearing a young soldier's picture, describing him in detail, and asking that anyone knowing his whereabouts notify a St. Louis family; an announcement of new educational courses, including a course in the theory of music; a dozen or more inquiries concerning comrades; notice to all Chicago men to get in touch with a certain corporal for the purpose of forming a veterans' association; a call for some officer to report at the desk, and an appeal to all soldiers to go to church.

Victory Hut, the cafeteria erected on Schloss Platz, Coblenz, is, it is claimed, the largest Y.M.C.A. dining room in the A.E.F. When it opened there were seats for 720 men at the table, and more have been added.

Thousands of permissionnaires are fed at the big hall daily. Members of the Army of Occupation being prohibited from buying foodstuffs from the German population, soldiers cannot eat in the civilian cafes and restaurants.

Meals are served at the cafeteria from 7 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night. It is closed for one hour in the afternoon and one hour in the afternoon for cleaning up, but, outside of that, the service is continuous.

A six-piece orchestra plays from a balcony over the dining room to music. The list is decorated in white and light blue. It is a twin but to another which was opened some time earlier and is being used for basketball and other amusements. They are located on the ground in front of the palace, the "Kaiser's front yard."

In the Third Army brig at Coblenz recently there were 219 prisoners, 212 of this number 76 were Germans. The Germans were in for minor offenses, mostly for having American goods in their possession. A few were in for making insulting remarks about America, but even a few harmless near-Bolsheviks applied for admission.

After serving their sentences, the German prisoners are usually reluctant about leaving, but the doughboy inmates are glad to see them go. The buck who has been AWOL a few days or who fraternized with the Hun is usually a German. He is not at all complimented by having a German living with him in the same brig. He admits that it's a good chance to learn the language by having a German near him, but the big kick on this score is registered because the prison officer has taken away all gas masks.

He is an exceedingly dignified major, such that it needed no second glance to tell that he is commander of the 3rd Battalion of the Judge Advocate's Office at Third Army headquarters; and he is betaking himself with stately mien across a street near the river. Along comes a driver, heading directly for the major—and the cash—only to the four winds as he utilizes the aid of a few muscles and bones he hadn't used for many years getting out of the way. And then the usually thing happens. "Guilty or not guilty?" demands the major sternly a few minutes later at the office of the A.P.M.

"If I guess I am, sir," says the soldier.

"Ten dollars of his next month's pay," orders the major—and he betakes himself, with stately mien, his dignity restored, to headquarters.

"Who won the war?" yelled a hard looking truck driver at many specialists on the Ezerzioplatz in the Exerzioplatz in Coblenz. It was too much for the lieutenant in charge of the prize company, many of whose members were two or three service stripes, wound stripes and chevrons of the war. He placed the whole truckload

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under arrest, and they were haled before the A.P.M.

The alphas of the arrests held good. In the first place, they were already prisoners, passing by on their way from work. In the second place, they were from the very same company the parading M.P.'s were and were only kidding.

An example of how the complexion of a unit changes is shown by Battery B, 243rd Field Artillery, billeted at Winterich, a village straggling on the banks of the Moselle. When the battery organized there were only four men who were not from Texas or Oklahoma, the states from which the 90th Division hails. When demobilization slips were made out the other day, it was found that members of the company had to be sent to 19 different demobilization camps, and that there were men from 25 states.

Prohibitionists, please investigate! In large, bold letters on the Y.W.C.A. Hostess House in Coblenz are the words "München-Deutschland," which means about the same in German as Schlitz or Pabst means in the U.S.A. Music comes out of the café at almost any hour from noon to midnight. Go inside and you see doughboys and Yankee girls ordering up drink after drink—of chocolate. The hostess house was formerly a fashionable hotel and café.

German recruiting posters, displayed just outside the occupied area, copies of which have been received at 90th Division headquarters at Buerneistel, have created considerable amusement, because the appeal for recruits starts appropriately with the word "Kamerad," a large, black letter at the top of the sheet. After passing the zone of American occupation, walls and trees are plastered with these posters.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, between 4 and 6 p.m., the people in and around Coblenz get an idea of what real warfare sounds like. On those days, and at the appointed hours, the Americans destroy tons and tons of captured German explosives and ammunition. Hand grenades, potato mashers, big gun shells and other explosives are collected and put into huge pits, dug by the Germans. The pits are wired with the mere pressing of the button does the trick.

Here is one of the stories being told in Coblenz:

A young American lieutenant had been billeted with the same German family for four months. One day he gave his uniform to the German housewife to have it cleaned and pressed. Upon looking through the pockets she found the identification tag of a German soldier. After some questions she learned that the German had been killed by the young officer. The German was her son.

In Paris the soldier tourists go to see the Pantheon de la Guerre, the huge work of art depicting Allied war history. In Coblenz permissionnaires meet glaring advertisements of the "World Clock," supposed to show the pendulum and atoms of the zone of American occupation, walls and trees are plastered with these posters.

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- EVERLASTIC "E" U.S. ROOFING—A reinforced trucking and "rubber" roofings. Comes in rolls.
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- EVERLASTIC MULTI-BEINGLES—Made in strips of rock, suitable for use, thereby saving labor. State-of-the-art. Etc. or green.
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ACCIDENTS PLENTY IN THIRD ARMY AREA

Salvage ranging from German clothing to American ammunition was destroyed in a fire in the Third Army Salvage Regulation Station at Metternich, across the Moselle from Coblenz, on May 28. The plant was wiped out, but soldiers prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent warehouses. The fire, which occurred at 10 o'clock at night, illuminated the whole valley about Coblenz.

Just recently some Germans got away with 50,000 American cigarettes. It was not long until this fact was discovered, and the Marine River Patrol immediately sent a detail over into neutral territory and recovered the smokes, just before the Germans were going to send them into the interior. And thus again is virtue triumphant.

Military civilians no longer have to obtain travel orders in Germany from military officials. However, orders that have been issued by the Army are good until the date of expiration. All that the welfare workers need now to travel is the order from their own particular organization. This takes in the K. of C., the Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army, Red Cross, J.W.B. and all.

The clock on the old town hall in Coblenz, built in 1479, may not be as correct as many others, but more people look at it than any other timepiece. Below the clock is a jolly old man who rolls his eyes with every swing of the pendulum and sticks out his tongue every time the clock strikes.

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The great increase in heavy motor traffic is disturbing all road authorities. They know it will quickly disappear ordinary roads, because they are not built to withstand such wear and tear.

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