

DEADLY GAS WITH SURVIVAL, REALLY WAS COMPOUNDED

But Neither Edison nor Old Nick Made It and 'Twasn't Used

OTHERS WORKED WELL

Chemical Warfare Service Was Going Strong When War Ended; Plenty of New Tricks in Store

How America fought the devil with fire and beat him at his own game is revealed for the first time in the official records of the A.E.F. Chemical Warfare Service.

Not only beat him, but laid up for him a neat series of deadly devices for gas warfare that, had the war not ended when it did, would have played a great part in the 1919 drive.

That deadly gas did, after all, it seems, exist. While nearly everybody accredited it to Edison, and ascribed to it every power of the underworld, it was only a gas for which the Germans knew no means of defense. It was a device, about as large as the familiar meat can, carried easily by the doughboy, and capable of producing a gas which at a distance of a mile would penetrate a Boche's mask and make him a casualty. A special mask for the protection of our own troops from this gas was also ready.

Smoke was also to play its part. There was ready a convenient mechanism which could be carried, knapsack fashion, by one man, and which would produce a dense smoke obscuring everything over a length of 500 yards for a period of 35 minutes.

A spherical bomb with a range of more than 3,000 yards had been developed for use with Livona projectors, when a longer range than that obtainable with the elongated drum was desired.

German Plants Recently Probed

An investigation of German gas factories has recently been made by the Chemical Warfare Service and details of their methods and apparatus secured. In spite of their boasted superiority as chemists, the Germans had been excelling in methods used and quantities produced in the United States, the A.E.F. men say.

As examples of what were commonly used gases, here may be mentioned phosgene, an extremely poisonous gas, chlorpicrin, intensely irritating to the eyes and mucous membranes, "mustard," which is very slowly disseminated, which burns the skin terribly and eats up the lungs, even when only a few parts of gas in ten million parts of air are inhaled, and which will burn a man's foot through his field shoe; diphenylchlorarsine, whose tactical possibilities are very great because it penetrates the gas mask, causing intense suffering and death.

One hundred and fifty-two gas regiment operations were carried out in liquid form during the war. In the Vosges, in the Marne-Vesle sector and in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives.

The first battalion of gas troops arrived in France in January, 1918, and trained with the British. Sandwiched in with the British units by platoons, it participated in 19 operations which are known to have caused large casualties and destroyed many of the enemy's lines of communication. There was an attack on Lens, when 2,500 projector drums were fired, hurling 75,000 pounds of gas on the German troops.

Our First 'Own' Gas Attack

The first independent gas attack made by the United States was on the night of the front held by a French division. This consisted of a projector bombardment against enemy troop concentrations, followed by shrapnel and high explosive. Eighteen days later, in the Meuse-Argonne, the gas was used in the attack on the Meuse-Argonne.

During the Meuse-Argonne offensive, ten companies of the 1st Gas Regiment, equipped with the latest gas masks, were assigned to the front. These units assisted the Infantry at the jump-off on September 26 by the use of smoke screens and thermite thrown on enemy machine gun nests, and by the use of gas shells.

In at least three cases in A.E.F. operations the use of gas was decisive in the success of the attack. During the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne operations, while the right of the Army was flanked by enemy artillery on the heights east of the Meuse, mustard gas was used to break up the enemy's machine gun positions.

Chemical Warfare Infantry weapons, including gas and smoke grenades and gas candles, were used by our forces in both the St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne operations. The 2nd Battalion of the 319th Infantry used the smoke rifle grenade with most success in the attack which began November 1. Just previous to going over the top, this battalion very quickly put out of action and captured, complete, several machine gun positions which had been in the hands of the enemy.

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A.E.F. RANKING CAR IS MUSTERED OUT

'Old 13' Discharged with Many Wounded Chevrons

The oldest touring car in the A.E.F. has been mustered out. "Old 13," as her driver christened her, is no longer a car. Her pieces have been tossed hither and yon into different bins at a salvage dump, and her crummy engine has been thrown into a trash pile. For "Old 13" has done her bit long ago, and it was only with the utmost patience that her driver managed to coax her back into Paris for a hazardous trip into Germany with the Army of Occupation.

"Old 13" was an English car—a Sunbeam—and was assigned to the editorial staff of THE STARS AND STRIPES early in June, 1918, after she had been discarded by an English colonel. It was then that the second episode of her career began. She participated in the fight at Belleau Woods and later went to the Vesle, where her fenders and hood were cut to pieces by shrapnel. At Flines her driver insisted on crossing the river behind the advancing doughboys, but was held back by the correspondent, who insisted that he was in command of the car. Later the crossing was made, and both lights were smashed by machine gun fire.

Made All Grades in Argonne Early in September "Old 13" entered Juvigny shortly after the town had been taken, and again her body was punctured with shrapnel, but none of the occupants were hurt. "Old 13" made all the roads and grades in the Argonne, and had the distinction of being the only car in the A.E.F. to have participated in every major offensive on the Western front where American troops fought.

The number of trips made to and from the front between June and December of 1918 were approximately 40. The number of miles covered in seven months were 15,200. In Germany the machine covered thoroughly the most out-of-the-way places in the American occupied area, and, if the truth must be known, her headlights have been on the horizon blue in Mainz and Wiesbaden, and the rasp of her siren has echoed back from the portals of the cathedral at Cologne. And she has poked her radiator over the boundary line separating America from neutral territory at more than one point along the perimeter of the bridgehead.

And now "Old 13" is in 13786 pieces, and her harking sound is a thing of the past. One general from peaceful lumber will be heard no more along the roads that wound along the old front, for she has gone to her resting place—a salvage dump.

MARKET NOTES OF A.E.F. EXCHANGES

PARIS, June 5.—Considerable profit taking occurred today in Durham, but brought a revival of the market which is being dumped at the moment. A large number of permissionaries on Class C leaves kicked the bottom out of bull, leaving it as low as one cent of pinard the dozen.

A sharp drop in service stripes here this week. Practically no big transactions have been put across since Service-Recording-Checking has gone into effect. Marine and Chateau-Thierry are being dumped at the market, due to excess of supply over demand.

Forecast for 1919

From the present outlook this should be a bull year. Men returning from the front, where they went shortly after the armistice, give this impression, which is strongly reflected in Army financial reports. The daily production had reached enormous proportions—many times more than that of Germany.

Prices on German 70's. Gothas and the like will be affected largely by the transport question, which protects the American market. My advice is to buy now, as the market is rising at the end of the month and avoid uncertain future securities, not guaranteed by the A.E.F.

Answers to Queries

R.T.O., Coblenz. Ivory stands well among the low-price stocks and is a good business man's buy, but contains a certain speculative quality, owing to the uncertainty of returns due to the always present fear of a market crash.

F. Le Mans. Hold your lingers if you can protect your margins. The uncertainty of the Casualty Market, the indefinite plans concerning transport and the conservative tendency of the money market so far from the front of the month should make one cautious of commitments on a slender margin.

L. Third Army. As I predicted another five to seven percent rise in spring, it would be folly to exchange a reliable stock like your O.D. Wool for Iron Cross, Unlimited. While it might be a good speculation it should not be considered by a private.

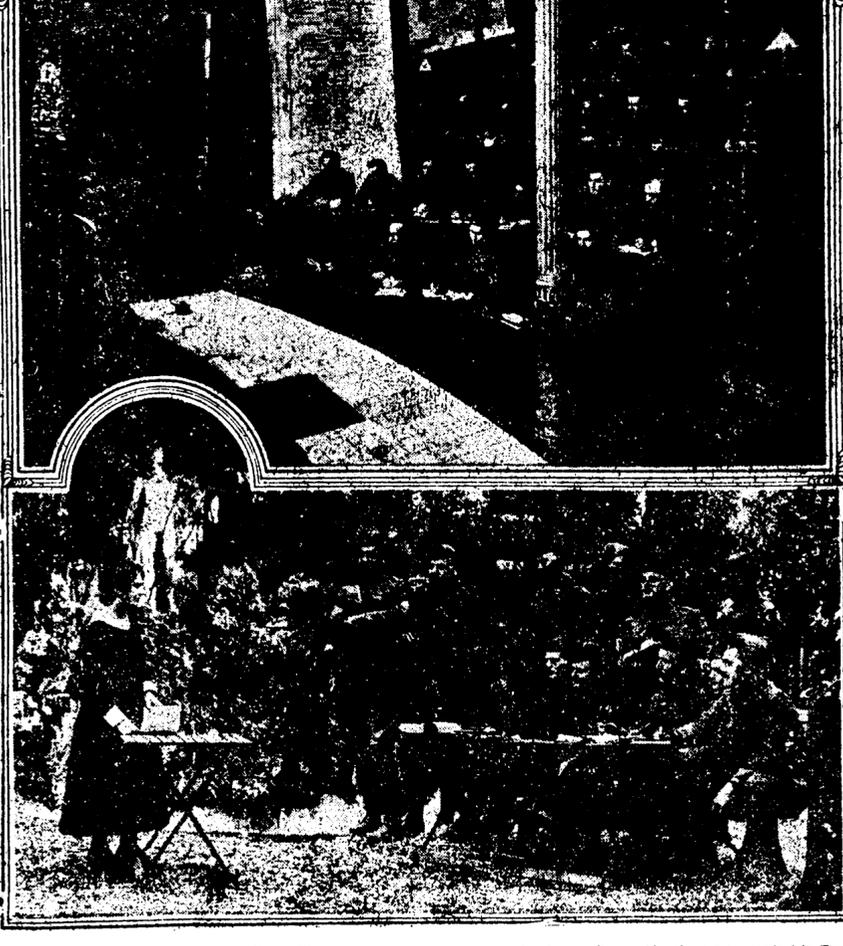
Q. M., Bourges. Hold your Medoc '78 by all means. The prohibition movement gives you every chance for a handsome liquidation later.

S. Nazaire. Look out for speculation in Slickers. A recent finding of the Courts Martial makes all such investments especially dangerous to handle at this time.

Some 400,000 Gas Shells Received The American-made gas to fill 5,000,000 75-millimeter shells was furnished in bulk by the A.E.F. to England and France, and at the close of hostilities there was in reserve in the States enough to fill 4,000,000 more.

The Chemical Warfare Service trained 4,000 officers and 32,000 men of the A.E.F. in gas defense. It found and unloaded 42 different types of German shells filled with 14 different gases and having 35 different kinds of fuses. And, in addition, it discovered 11 British devices used as traps to explode munition dumps.

HOW YANKS BEHAVE IN SCHOOL



It is because they are wont to employ the deadly gas shooter when they sit in the back of the room, or because they are the teachers' pets, that so many Sam Brownes can be seen seated in the front row in the top picture which is of an advanced French class at the University of Clermont-Ferrand? Of course (as can be seen below), when it is a mademoiselle who is teaching them to parlez-vous, the buck doesn't let such a little thing as a Sam Browne stand in his way, and here in this picture of an outdoor class at the University of Clermont-Ferrand we see him right up in the front row.

Scenes like these were typical in France, Britain and Germany when the Yank went back to school days again under the Army Educational Plan, which included attendance at Army schools and French English universities of the standing of Oxford and the Sorbonne.

HOW ENGINEERS SHARED GLORY OF INFANTRY AT FRONT

Continued from Page 1 were told that they would be relieved in a very few days. They had to dig themselves in on the side of a hill a few miles east of Villers-Bretonneux. A few machine guns were given to them and one gun of unknown caliber supported them from the rear. There were no supporting trenches and no supports.

I kept track of them first through their battalion doctor, a jovial old bachelor known in civilian life as Dr. Byrne. I do not know where he came from in the States but I remember his name very well. I was regimental provost at the time and was helping the Tommy M.P. to direct traffic on the Peronne-Amiens road in the center of town. The functions of American M.P.'s with the B.E.F. and with the A.E.F. were decidedly different. We were chiefly information bursters and, in a sense, "welfare workers." Captain Byrne would catch a lorry occasionally and ride into Amiens to buy chocolate and cigarettes for "his boys," as he would affectionately call them.

The 108th Engineers, commanded by Col. Henry A. Allen, arrived at Brest on May 18, 1918, and at once went to work building waterworks and an electric light plant at Brest. After a week there, the regiment was sent to the Amiens-Albert area, under the 4th British Army. The 1st Battalion being placed under the 3rd Corps and the rest of the regiment under the Australian Corps. Here the troops had a very short training period and were largely equipped by the British, but from June 18 to August 21 they were in constant duty with the front, bivouacking in dugouts and working almost always under shell fire.

The laborers of the regiment were of infinite variety, including a great deal of road building. The situation of the American construction and work was often done in direct co-operation with British Royal Engineers, and tunnel, railway and pioneer companies. The continuous and never-ending task was the work of the trench sappers of the second line of defense, or main line of resistance, in the regions west of Villers-Bretonneux, Corbie and Albert. Here many miles of trenches and wire entanglements were constructed, with machine gun emplacements, concrete gun turrets and observation posts.

Pontoon Laid Across Somme One piece of special work which was done every night for five weeks by details of front line men each night was the laying of a pontoon bridge across the Somme near Corbie. This bridge furnished the only means of communication by which the ration and ammunition wagons could reach the front line and it had to be maintained nightly regardless of difficulties, although it was under direct observation by the Germans and was under heavy fire of high explosive and gas shells every night and all night. The work of the construction of the details which laid this "silent" bridge after dark in the evening and took it up before dawn in the morning, and it required constant attention while it was in place, because it was frequently partially wrecked by shells and had to be immediately repaired.

To the details which were always working with the British and Australians along the actual front often came the task of accompanying raiding parties into No Man's Land, cutting the enemy's wire in front, repairing damaged British wire and patrolling the intervening ground while the raiding parties were in or near the German trenches. About July 23, the enemy having retired some 2,000 yards across the Ancre river in the vicinity of Albert, Company B, 108th Engineers, supervised the construction of new front line trenches by British Infantry and with its own personnel examined all the abandoned German dugouts and shelters before the Infantry was allowed to occupy them. The work always conducted under shell and sniper fire, had to be done in the day time on account of light, and it was exceedingly perilous because many of the shelters were mined and laid with traps, which had to be cleared or sprung.

At Start of Argonne Advance It having been determined to cross the swamp by means of planking and passerelle bridges, the latter consisting of sacks of straw about 2.7 meters by 1.5 meters each, lashed together, planked over and provided with side ropes, a dump of necessary material was accumulated at Cumières, three kilometers in rear, and on the night of September 25 Company D was assigned to the assault battalion of the 131st Infantry and Company E to the assault battalion of the 132nd Infantry. It built passages across the marsh, maintaining communication over it until the Infantry had passed and to put and keep bridges in good condition for the following echelons.

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FOUND: A JULIUS CAESAR

"Orderly, page Mr. Scipio and Mr. Hannibal." A real live, slum-rating, jam-loving, khaki-clad Julius Caesar has been found at last in the person of Pvt. Cl. Julius Caesar, Signal Corps Detachment, Headquarters, Fourth Army Corps. For a year or more we have roamed over all Gaul and its three parts, little knowing that he was amongst us amongst. Quietly he has gone his way, stretching telephone wires and flashing helios, instead of building untranslatable bridges that made the little red school upon the hill a house of misery. But where are Mark Antony and Xenophon?

A.E.F. URGED TO KEEP UP ITS INSURANCE

Unpaid Premiums Bring No Good From W.R.I. After Nine Months

Members of the A.E.F. returning to the United States are being warned against the inconveniences caused by allowing their War Risk Insurance to lapse. Except within a short period of grace allowed, no policy that has lapsed will be reinstated without a new physical examination and payment of all back premiums with interest.

A policy is deemed to have lapsed when premiums have been unpaid for three months. After premiums have been unpaid for nine months, reinstatement will be impossible and all benefits of the War Risk Insurance are lost.

Those holders of War Risk Insurance policies who have kept up their payments may, without further physical examination, convert their policies at any time within five years to one of the forms of the permanent peace-time insurance. The conversion rate is estimated to be 30 per cent cheaper than that provided by commercial companies. Many returning A.E.F. men are already converting their war policies to the peace-time form.

New Insurance Obtainable

Following are the classes of the new insurance which may be obtained: (a) Annual Premium Policy, in which the premium is paid for one year and the policy is payable at the death of the insured. (b) Twenty Payment Life, in which the premium is payable for twenty years and the policy is payable at the death of the insured.

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THIRD ARMY KEEN FOR LIFE ON FARM

Agricultural Classes Go Big in Towns of Rhine District

The sight of fertile fields in the glory of early summer, prospects of early home-going and an Army-born love of the outdoors, have combined to create much back-to-the-farm interest in the Third Army on the Rhine.

Not only have there been well-attended agricultural classes in the Army schools, in farmers' institutes all over the occupied area and at frequent meetings of the Third Army Country Life Association, but now agricultural instructors want to organize a post-war course of study by mail. So future soldier-farmers may be able to say they learned farming in a correspondence school.

The Country Life Association has a membership of almost 500, with chapters at Coblenz and in the 3rd Division. Pvt. James W. Milner is president and Sgt. Forrest Richard is vice president. The association holds local meetings, but goes out and does missionary work in the interest of farming.

The farmers' institutes were conducted by teams sent out from Baum's University. They cover all of the Third Army, speaking in all phases of country life. Agricultural branches proved popular in the Army schools, in some divisions ranking high above all other classes in enrollment.

Two complete 42-centimeter German Howitzers, similar to those which demolished the Belgian fortifications at Liege and Namur and put so many so-called impenetrable forts out of date, have recently been received at the Mehus Ordnance Repair Shops for shipment to the United States.

These two guns were brought from Spinnaker about 35 miles from Verdun, where they were abandoned by the Germans. It required 11 ten-ton tractors to haul them overland. Each piece is demountable into five sections, the lightest of which weighs 22 tons, the whole piece when in a firing position having a weight of 120 tons.

It is said that these guns are the heaviest ever taken over French roads and many detours had to be made in the 351-mile trip from Spinnaker to Mehus, in order to avoid weak bridges.

The guns are being dismantled in the repair shops and after being greased and painted will be shipped to the Aberdeen proving grounds, Maryland, probably for disposition as trophies.

Over 100 ex-members of the Rainbow Division assembled at the Tranba Hotel in "obolenz on Memorial Day, at a banquet "in memory of other men and other days."

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