

TANKS STOOD GAFF FROM BELGIUM TO ARGONNE BATTLE

American Machines Few in Number but Active All the Time

PERSONNEL LOSSES HEAVY

Enemy Felt Shock of Their Assault on Hindenburg Line and Kriemhilde-Stellung in Particular

The functions, wondrously combined, of Cavalry, Infantry, Artillery and perambulating fortifications gave to that primarily British invention, the tank, in the early days of its use a prominence out of proportion, no doubt, to the numbers of men who were identified with the operations of these uncouth contrivances, but certainly not out of proportion to the results which they achieved, either in the British or the French armies.

It would be quite impossible within the limits of a single article even to outline the work of the various units of American tanks, for though comparatively few in number, they were exceedingly active. But it may be possible, by telling something of the battles of a few typical units to shadow forth in a degree the sort of difficulties and dangers which all confronted and the splendid spirit of heroism with which they met dangers which were, not only often, but ordinarily, even greater than those encountered by the men of other branches of the service on the battle front.

In describing some weeks ago the operations of the 27th and 30th United States Divisions of the Second United States Army Corps against the Scheidt Canal tunnel sectioning the line between Le Catelet and Bellouet, the fact was mentioned that with the American divisions fought a number of tanks, including the 301st Battalion of the American Tank Corps, the only unit of American heavy tanks on the Western Front. The 301st Battalion, commanded by Maj. R. I. Sasse, functioned under the brigade command of the 2nd United States Division, which included the 1st and 4th Battalions of British tanks and the 4th Tank Supply Company, also British. For the attack on September 29 the whole brigade was allotted to the Australian Corps, with which the Second U. S. Corps was affiliated, the 1st Tank Battalion attacking with the 27th U. S. Division and the 301st with the 27th Division.

Plan of Hindenburg Line Drive Several days of careful reconnaissance and consultation with the infantry commanders preceded the attack, and when the plans for the operation were fully developed the three companies of the 301st Battalion were assigned—Company C, with 15 tanks, to the 108th Infantry, which was to attack on the right of the division sector; Company A, with 12 tanks, to the 107th Infantry, which was to attack on the left; and Company B, with ten tanks, to the 106th Infantry, which was to follow up when the other two companies had deployed facing north to protect the left flank of the division. The seven remaining tanks of the battalion were held in the American Corps reserve.

Camouflaging Their Noise The noise of their advance to the start line at zero hour—5.50 a.m.—approached them by airplanes flying overhead. Only one airplane made its appearance, but the noise of the approaching tanks was, nevertheless, quite effectively deadened by the use of the rear end of the artillery preparation. Following the paths which, for the last 3,000 yards, had already been taped out by pioneers, the tanks were advanced in a single file, one man in each tank was wounded in the performance of this hazardous mission, the majority of the tanks went over the line on time and in touch with the infantry.

The ground was dry enough to make good going, and the mist which covered the ground at zero hour had cleared away by 7 a.m. But the dense obscurity of the smoke barrage, the exploding shells which took the place of the mist, and an mist of the tank pilots could see nothing ahead, sometimes not even the noses of their own machines, and had to rely wholly upon their compasses to keep the right direction. The tank commanders spent much of their time on the ground, moving ahead of their machines and guiding them, but the main difficulties did not arise in crossing trenches, which most of the machines negotiated successfully, though a few had to be dug out with shovels, while others were unditched by stretching a wire cable across two opposite spuds on the caterpillar track. The constant and terrible peril was the fire of the German anti-tank rifles. The moment a tank came into view it was made the center of a concentration of artillery fire and many machines were demolished or compelled to retire from action by direct hits. The machines on the right, with the 108th Infantry, were able to keep contact with the infantry and to co-operate directly. Those with the 107th Infantry, on the left, could not do so.

Disaster in Minefield It will be remembered that two days before the main assault, the 106th Infantry had made a preliminary attack to conquer the intended jumping-off line in the advance trenches. The attack was a complete disaster, and the 107th Infantry, virtually did not see any action.

STARS AND STRIPES IS HAULED DOWN WITH THIS ISSUE

Bugler Walsh Toots "To the Colors" After Setting This Head

SERVED A.E.F. 16 MONTHS

Yanks' Own Paper Was for the Enlisted Man First, Last and All the Time—Goodbye!

With this issue, No. 19, of Volume II, THE STARS AND STRIPES finds itself being reverently hauled down, to be as reverently laid away—but not, we trust, in the brig; the while Printer Dave Walsh, our only reformed bugler, sounds a not too mournful "To the Colors."

The reason that Dave's rendition is not more stirring is not entirely because he is out of practice; it is that his old outfit, the 26th Division, sailed for the States long ago, while he stuck over here to help finish the job up properly. But now it's done, and he's going home. And so, now that our work is completed, are we all—going home.

"THE STARS AND STRIPES is up at the top of the mast for the duration of the war," ran our opening editorial in the first issue, that of February 8, 1918. We think that now, with all combat divisions save those of the Third Army well out of France, we are violating no confidence in proclaiming the war over. And with the Third Army now being ably served by its very own daily published on the banks of the Rhine, we feel that it is time for this weekly published on the banks of the Seine to cease firing.

So, after blowing "To the Colors," Bugler Walsh will sound "To the Rear."

"Re-port!" Yet before saying good-bye to what is left of that A.E.F. which THE STARS AND STRIPES was created to serve, and which it has served continuously throughout 16 and a half months according as God gave it to see the light, before saying good-bye to the remaining members of the most homesick and most likable Army on earth, THE STARS AND STRIPES feels that it owes a report on itself and its activities during those 16 and a half months, made to the men to whom it owes its being, its reason for existence, and its unparalleled support throughout—namely, the Yank enlisted men. For it was Old John W. Dougherty—using doughnuts, the general, all-inclusive sense—that made this sheet what it was, by setting up before it those examples of heroism, pluck and endurance which it has been its privilege and glory to chronicle for all the world to read.

So, Yanks, since the paper belongs to you, you have a perfect right to ask what THE STARS AND STRIPES did in the great war. Well, here is what it did. To begin with, THE STARS AND STRIPES is, as far as we know, the only subdivision of the A.E.F. that does not claim to have been war-scarred. Why this is, we do not know. Perhaps it is because we have never had more than two Marines on the sheet at one time. Just now one of them is busy somewhere (as usual) and the other is busy somewhere else. Perhaps it is because—rumor to the contrary notwithstanding—we have no personnel recruited from the overseas Y.M.C.A. Trust you will excuse the Y.M.C.A. dangle as a white lie, attached to THE STARS AND STRIPES for ratings, and earned her plum with a vengeance by feverishly sewing on insignia things just before Secretary Baker inspected her. But since the Main Attraction left she hasn't been around here much. They are that way, them women. Y's, or otherwise. (By the way, Janet, our housewife, has two buttons and we can't go aboard ship that way, you know. C'mon round as soon as you read this, won't you?)

Not still further to explain our reticence about claiming to have won the war—have we had more than one M.P. writing for the paper at any one time, although that is hardly fair, since the M.P.'s really had that title wished on them. There is at present one hard-boiled ex-Top Soak of M.P.'s around here, but he is so scared of Walsh he doesn't peep. Then there is a very bossy serge-uniformed person who, upon being accused of red-tubedness, hastily explained that he'd only been sergeant-majoring around the Provost Marshal General's office; so seeing that the writer of the paper was not a sergeant, but a poet, we let him stay. The only paper he asks for is copy paper, so the rest of the A.E.F. needn't be afraid of us.

But They Do Say We Helped a Bit We are content to rest on the appraisal of two of our chiefs, one of them the former Commanding General of the S.O.S., and now the A.E.F.'s C.-of-S., and the other the former Chief of Staff of the Army. The former Chief of Staff has been an important factor in creating and supporting the morale which has at all times characterized the American Expeditionary Force. The former Chief of Staff, one of our oldest and best backers, told us in the same issue.

"THE STARS AND STRIPES has played an important part in the morale of the American Expeditionary Force. It has carried on its fight for us. Suppose we let it go at that, for the present, and get on with the yarn."

Bucks Outwitted Sam Brown To sum up and add a bit to what we told in that anniversary issue four months ago—and we told most everything then—THE STARS AND STRIPES was started on a shoestring in the course of 12 months to a circulation of 526,000. The staff at the beginning consisted of one irascible energetic and everlastingly popular editor, one energetic and everlastingly popular printer (now, as an officer-in-charge, equally energetic but much more respectful), one ditto First Looney of Infantry, as advertising correspondent, one energetic BUCK PRIVATE of Leathernecks of the Department, and one forced-to-be-energetic BUCK PRIVATE of Machine Guns. The staff has since grown to what it is seen from this that the paper started out, just as humbly as it possibly could, and still keep up appearances. More BUCK PRIVATEs were added later, and immediately proceeded to outvie hell out of the officers at all editorial conferences.

Born in a Log Cabin The first office of the sheet was in the back room of a little converted shop on the Rue St. Jean in the town of Neufchateau, then used as the Field Press Headquarters of the A.E.F. There, amid the constant coming and going of great but deeply grateful war correspondents, and pleas for mercy from the cruel, cruel censors, the urgent demands for more wood for that damned old stove by (Censored), and the rigors of the Vosges climate in late

FOR THE SAKE OF AULD LANG SYNE



YANKEE DIVISIONS WERE DECIDING AID AT WAR'S END

Summary of Activities from Cantigny Fight to Armistice

LATE, BUT NOT TOO LATE

Besides Actual Winning of Battles Their Participation Braced Allied Morale Greatly

Coming upon the field late, but, providentially, not too late, no American division was ever used, except by way of training, in a sector of minor importance. As soon as they were sufficiently seasoned they were put in places where their influence would be of the utmost value.

At Cantigny the first of the American divisions to be so employed was placed at the apex of the deepest and most dangerous of all the salients driven by the Germans into the Allied front. It struck that salient a sounding blow, gained ground, made good and, in the darkest hour of the Allied cause, showed that America was coming in all her power, and lifted the morale in all armies.

Between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry In the mighty counter-stroke between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry the American divisions took a part which may in all fairness be termed decisive. Two of them were put in to break the hinge of the Marne salient south of Soissons, and, nobly supported by French comrades on either side, they did it; a task stupendous and one whose far-reaching consequences perhaps cannot be justly estimated for years.

At other points of the line, and particularly at the other end of the counter-attack, more American divisions bore a large percentage of the victorious fighting which, when it temporarily came to a stop along the Vesle, had definitely and obviously transferred the initiative from the Allies.

UNITED STATES SPENT \$23,363,000,000 ON WAR

War expenditures of the United States for the entire period of the war total \$23,363,000,000, according to an estimate presented several weeks ago by General March, chief of staff of the War Department. The estimate includes all money spent for the military program. Of the total, two-thirds, or roughly \$14,000,000,000, was spent by the War Department.

MOST DISCHARGES HAVE JOBS WAITING

Approximately only 30 per cent of the first million men to be discharged from the Army in the United States asked assistance from the Government Employment Service in obtaining jobs, and the remaining 70 per cent for the most part had jobs waiting for them when they were demobilized, according to a War Department statement issued this week.

WANT A WIFE? BUY SOME BLUBBER OIL

Yanks in Russia Get Matrimonial Bonds from Canteen

The Yanks who have courted the vivacious French mademoiselle in Paris and elsewhere, and who have been compelled to touch the skipper for an occasional loan in order to shower libations of champagne and nougats at the feet of the sweetest girl in the world, and all that, will turn pink with envy when they learn what some of the other members of the A.E.F. are getting away with.

Farther away from America than any of us ever hope to be again, a detachment of Yanks is getting away with murder and winning brides for themselves at a rapid rate. To date 12 doughboys on the Murman coast in far-off Russia, near Archangel, have been married, and as far as can be proved, they did it by satisfying their lady-love's sweet tooth with caviar and blubber oil. The Q.M. complained that they couldn't keep enough guards in the follow section, but what's a candle or two for a man's future is at stake? And where is the present-day economy expert who will not admit that a wedding breakfast of blubber oil and whole steak is the acme of food conservation?

It has been reported that the latest girl to promise to "love, honor and obey" is Marleyky Krazkyloftnik, who will shortly be known as Mrs. John Smith, of Toledo, Ohio.

The international matrimonial market has by this time found many investors among the Yanks of France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Russia.

ADD WAR HORRORS MINUS GOLF BALLS

Shortage of Rubber in Vienna Brings Crisis to Head

Grueling hardships suffered by American soldiers in enemy territory have been brought to light with striking emphasis by the request from members of the American Relief Commission stationed in Vienna for a supply of golf balls for use on the links outside the city.

SLIGHT CHANGES MAY YET BE MADE IN PEACE TREATY

Silesia Coal Lands and Saar Valley Still in Dispute

General Feeling in Conference That German Official Attitude Is Bluff

With the A.E.F. fast fading from the shores of France, and the first half-year of the Army of Occupation completed, the Peace Conference this week saw its deliberations of the German counter-terms obscured by war-clouds in Bolshevik Hungary.

While no official statement regarding the progress on the Allies' deliberations over Brockdorff-Rantau's lengthy answer to the peace terms is so far available, it is generally understood that certain slight changes in the treaty's demands, in methods of handling rather than in principle, are under favorable consideration.

The question of administration of the coal lands of Silesia, ceded to the Poles, and the final disposition of those in the Saar valley, ceded to the French for a term of fifteen years, may be slightly altered. The question of reparations, with Lloyd George, it is understood, still favoring the naming of a definite sum, while France holds the opposite view, is still under discussion. Germany's request for immediate admission to the League of Nations, likewise, finds no response among the French commissioners.

Czecho-Slovaks Ask Aid On Wednesday of this week General Scheiner, of the Czecho-Slovakian Army, interviewed Marshal Foch, pleading for further support against the danger which he said threatened his country from the Bolshevik Hungarians on one side and the Germans on the other.

Meanwhile, the text of the Peace Treaty, which, though published in enemy and neutral countries, was withheld from France, Italy, Great Britain and America, has this week appeared in three papers in the States. It was read into the Congressional Record as a public document.

The question of how the Germans will receive the answer to their counter-proposals is still entirely a matter of supposition. Reports from Germany indicate that there is still a strong element which heartily against accepting the peace without at least a show of resistance, but in many quarters it is felt the official attitude is simply a bluff.

A certain amount of time will be given the Germans to state whether they will hold their bluff. On their refusal, military action will result. The threat to let Bolshevism loose if the Allies come in, is still being heard, but for the most part American diplomatic circles reflect an optimistic view of the situation.

DISCHARGES IN EUROPE Men who want to be discharged in Europe—no matter whether they wear Sam Browns or not—had better make application before June 30, or they will be out of luck.

HE'S A UNION JACK ALL BY HIMSELF

Put. Cutting's Got to Get Nine Stars on His Ribbon

Any one who has knocked about in this man's Army long enough to get the regulation number of inoculations will agree that the loading queue of the day is, "When do we go home?" To most of us this is the item of paramount importance, but occasionally a Yank will bob up some place in the tournament, and to him this will be as nothing.

For instance, what does it matter to Pvt. Wendell Cutting, American Embarkation Center Headquarters, Le Mans, whether or not Parisian girls wear stockings? What is it in his young life if he's been so busy helping to whip Germany that he hasn't had time to learn the "Shimmy Shiver"? What he wants to know before he plants his hobnails under Mom's dinner table is how he is going to get the nine stars he is entitled to on one victory ribbon.

Any one furnishing a solution will be awarded the nine stars. For instance, what does it matter to Pvt. Wendell Cutting, American Embarkation Center Headquarters, Le Mans, whether or not Parisian girls wear stockings? What is it in his young life if he's been so busy helping to whip Germany that he hasn't had time to learn the "Shimmy Shiver"? What he wants to know before he plants his hobnails under Mom's dinner table is how he is going to get the nine stars he is entitled to on one victory ribbon.

Private Cutting started out as a member of Company L, 16th Infantry, 1st Division, and saw service in the following nine of the 12 major operations of the American Army: Somme defensive, Alsace defensive, Montdidier-Noyon defensive, Champagne-Marne defensive, Aisne-Marne offensive, Somme offensive, Oise-Aisne offensive, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne.

CHAUMONT ALMOST DESERTED VILLAGE

Only Occasional Footsteps Sound Through Former Seat of G.H.Q.

A mere handful of officers and clerks and piles and piles of oblong boxes marked "records" are the only American remnants of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Chaumont is a desolate village. Big limousines no longer scatter dust whizzing through the iron gate at the entrance to the parade. Even generals walk from their billets to their offices now. By Sunday all but approximately 200 officers and men will have departed from Chaumont.

On November 11, 1918, the date of the signing of the armistice, when G.H.Q. was at the height of its activity, there were more than 400 officers, 2,672 men and 437 Army Field Clerks on duty. Most of these men remained in Chaumont until June 1, when the personnel was ordered diminished by one-half. Since June 1 officers and men have been leaving every day, until now only the heads of sections, their immediate assistants and a few clerks remain.

The offices of G-1, administration, and G-4, co-ordination, were closed June 5, the personnel going to the United States and part of G-4, the S.O.S., The Provost Marshal General's office, which has been an adjunct to G.H.Q., has been moved to Chateau-du-Loir. The Sales Commission and Sales Quartermaster will close June 15.

All warfare activities in Chaumont will close Sunday. On that date the officers' club, the officers' mess, and the Y.M.C.A. auditorium will close. From that time on the only men who remain in Chaumont are the caretakers of the barracks. The show-up of the closing of G.H.Q. is written on large paper tags which hang from the majority of the doors in the barracks. The tags read simply: "EMPTY."

NO PROMOTIONS, NO DECORATIONS

Lid on Advancement of A.E.F. Officers Clamped Down by G.H.Q.

No more promotions of officers in the A.E.F. No more awards of decorations or certificates for meritorious service. The lid on promotions and honors was put on when special telegraphic instructions from G.H.Q., under date of May 29, went out through the A.E.F., ordering that no more recommendations for promotions of officers to be forwarded, and that, save in very exceptional cases, no papers relative to decorations or certificates for special meritorious services should be sent in.

The order suspending promotions applies also to recommendations for commissions in the Reserve Corps, howsoever they are forwarded by organization commanders direct to the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C. In the case of recommendations for honors, it is directed that papers of this nature are to be returned to the originators.

MAIL BAGS—MAIL ONLY

Even painting them blue isn't going to get the owner past the dock officers. Mail bags are being painted blue to camouflage them. They are Government property, and the Government wants them for letters and packages. That is why a letter has been sent to the office of the assistant chief, division of post office, War Department, to the effect that "mail sacks shall be used only for the transmission of mailable matter, and he who uses them for any other purpose shall be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both."

47,000 ENLISTMENTS FOR REGULAR ARMY

Enlistments in the Regular Army in the United States since the call went out seven months ago for volunteers to replace temporary service men in the Army of Occupation totaled 47,000 last week, according to announcement by General March, Chief of Staff of the War Department. Of the 47,000, five battalions made up of 4,900 men have already started for the A.E.F., General March said. The rest of the new enlistees, 14,000 expected to start for the A.E.F. in the next few days, are being processed at the War Department. The only applications that will be considered are those complying in every respect with provisions of existing orders and regulations, according to the instructions.

ONLY ONE-FOURTH OF A.E.F. TO REMAIN AFTER TEN DAYS

Three-Quarter Mark Nearly Attained in Home-Bound Journey

S. O. S. LEAVING RAPIDLY

New York Greatest Port of Reception, Newport News Second, and Boston Third

Within the next ten days the A.E.F. is expected to pass another landmark on its way home, a sign post that says, "500,000 Yanks Yet to Go," meaning three-fourths of the home journey done.

Before the end of June another 100,000 men lay of the way will be chopped off, and American forces abroad, Army of Occupation included, will be reduced to less than 400,000 men, under present plans. All these could be taken home in July if conditions warranted.

Five divisions are holding the lid down on the Rhine. The S.O.S. is putting out from A.E.F. ports as fast as boats can carry it, and will continue to move until it is reduced to the force of 650 officers and 18,210 enlisted men planned to wind up its affairs.

At midnight last Sunday 1,322,971 members of the A.E.F. had taken ship for the United States since the armistice. The sailings for the first eight days in June had been 69,700. During the past five days the average has been gradually increased, and between today and June 21, 96,000 men are scheduled to get under way. It is certain that the May record of 331,336 will be duplicated, if not beaten.

96,000 Waiting to Sail Sunday The number of men at base ports ready to sail on midnight June 8 was as follows: 33,345 S.O.S. troops and 21,164 divisional troops; St. Nazaire, 25,291 S.O.S. troops and 4,851 divisional troops; Bordeaux, 5,484 S.O.S. troops; Marseille, 684 S.O.S. troops, making a total of 95,312.

Late word from the ports indicates that all the 26,000 divisional troops have sailed, thus clearing the A.E.F. of all combat units except those in the Third Army. The strength of the S.O.S. on June 4 was 24,985 officers and 466,243 enlisted men, including both those awaiting transportation to the States and permanent personnel.

The total number of troops in the District of Tours, where S.O.S. activities centered, was 1,088 officers and 1,928 enlisted men on June 4. At the same time, Paris, which is getting to be more and more the center of things as the A.E.F. goes home, had 2,844 officers and 18,564 enlisted men. The Quartermaster Corps now forms the bulk of the remaining A.E.F., not counting the Army of Occupation.

Brest Still Far in Lead Brest leads all ports in the number of troops shipped home in the period from November 11, 1918, to midnight June 8, with St. Nazaire second and Bordeaux third. The figures are: Brest, 637,682; St. Nazaire, 401,508; Bordeaux, 232,089; Marseille, 61,143; New York, 52,676. From ports in England, scarcely mentioned as a jump-off place for the big heghra home-ward, 37,839 men sailed, and Italy has been the center of the point for 6,256.

The show-up of the closing of G.H.Q. is written on large paper tags which hang from the majority of the doors in the barracks. The tags read simply: "EMPTY."

These ships included the following types of vessels flying the American flag: Sixty-four vessels of miscellaneous type, converted cargo carriers, 40 ports; and 25 battleships, cruisers and mine sweepers. Ten American vessels taken over during the armistice have also been used, including British, French, Dutch, Italian and Spanish.

What the Ports Are Awaiting It has been said that the whole of the A.E.F. could be gotten home by August 1, and a glance at the statistics of the ports between June 8 and June 16 goes a long way to explain what high motor power the home-moving machinery is now working under.

During those eight days there were due in the five A.E.F. ports 50 ships with sufficient capacity to carry home 107,033 enlisted men and 5,348 officers. They were divided among the ports as follows: St. Nazaire, 1,086 officers and 40,195 enlisted men; Bordeaux, 311 officers and 7,893 enlisted men; Brest, 2,946 officers and 52,827 enlisted men; Marseille, 359 officers and 5,380 enlisted men; and Havre, 136 officers and 738 enlisted men.

St. Nazaire was due to receive the Manchuria, Mexican, Montpelier, Eden, Zealandia, DeKub, Panama, Artemis, Santa Barbara, Virgilian, Princess Matoka, Tiger, Powhatan, Texas, Santa Clara, Sierra, Shoshone, Julia Luckenbach, Kronland and Pastores.

Bordeaux was expecting visits from the Alphonse VII, Radnor, Dakotan, Oteago, Santa Rosa, and Cape May.

Brest, the deep-water port, was scheduled to take care of the Vedic, Louisiana, the great mercantile steamer, and the Kansas, Charleston, Agassiz, and Virginia, America, Prinz Fr. Wilhelm, Maui, Virginia, H. E. Mallory, Imperator, Montclair and others.

Continued on Page 2

A.E.F. SPECIALS CUT DOWN

Two of the best known A.E.F. special train services ended this week. The Mediterranean ports stopped Tuesday, and the last leave train left Nice for Paris yesterday. The last trip of the Eastbound Tours-Chaumont Express was made Tuesday and its last return trip from Chaumont to Tours was made Wednesday. This service was one of the first to be put in operation, connecting G.H.Q. and Hq., S. O. S. During the great mercantile stoppage of the fighting days, passenger service on this line often was greatly delayed, while long lines of freight trains shuttled between the front areas and the great mercantile bases of the S.O.S. The train was known as the "Laboy Special," being named for Major General Aterbury, Director General of Transportation.