

THIRD ARMY WELL ON WAY TO KEEP WATCH ON RHINE

Singing, Spike - Helmeted
Doughboys Pass Long-
wy and Briey

250,000 TROOPS ON MARCH

Veteran Battling Divisions in
Forces of Occupation Glory
in "The Party"

Nine divisions strong—the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th—the Third American Army began on the morning of Sunday, November 17, its march to the Rhine.

It was at 5:30 that the order "Forward, march!" sounded along the American line from Mouzon to Thiaucourt. The march was a long one, and the soldiers were not only marching but also singing. The march was a long one, and the soldiers were not only marching but also singing.

Indeed, for several days before the march began, officers and men who had started forth so gallantly on the long march, had been kept hurrying back of their own accord at the first inkling that their outfit had been among those nominated to keep a watch on the Rhine. Even men who, on the strength of the armistice, had decided to go AWOL for a day or so, would gleam the good news at half-way towns like Bar-le-Duc or Châlons and come sneaking back as fast as their legs or hospitable trucks would carry them. Every one wanted to be among those present at what came in no time to be known as "The Party."

Singing Toward the Frontier

So, when the sun came up on the morning of the 17th it found them all marching in columns of squads along the highways that lead to the frontier—plodding along and singing as they went. And the song that they sang to Germany was a very old one, the favorite which broke over and again into the familiar refrain, "The Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming." Ahead of them, as they ambled forward, stretched a countryside strewn with the things the Germans had been too hurried or too indifferent to clean along. In nearly every village, the streets were fairly littered with German guns, German helmets, German cartridge belts as though, when the armistice news came they had been dropped then and there, never to be picked up again by German hands.

Whole platoons of American Infantry could be seen parading toward the frontier, each head adorned with a spiked German helmet. The souvenir market was glutted before sundown of the first day, and lagers, which a fortnight before, would have sold for \$100 to \$200 francs, could be had in exchange for one package of cigarettes.

Best Find of All

Then, treasure trove of treasure troves, the advancing Americans found in the German hospitals some Yankee wounded. In the big hospitals at Virton, for instance, the Germans had been obliged to leave behind some 400 men too seriously wounded to be moved—left them there with a full staff of surgeons and nurses to care for them—and among these were nine Americans. They had lain there, long and helpless, for many weary days and nights. They woke on the morning of the 12th to find friendly Americans swarming around their beds, showering them with cigarettes and magazines. And all along the way the men of the Third Army, moving forward unmolested as though on some easy practice march, were greeted and passed by an unending stream of refugees, thousands upon thousands of scantily clad, hungry, tired, happy refugees, prisoners of war, civilian prisoners, women, children, and all nationalities, thousands upon thousands of them pouring through the towns and villages already gay with French and American flags.

By Monday night the troops, having advanced some 100 kilometers and reached the Luxembourg frontier, settled down for breath.

On Thursday morning the march was resumed through Luxembourg, from the general line Etalle, Saint-Lôger, Longwy, Audun-le-Romain, Briey.

The Third American Army, which is Continued on Page 2

CERTAIN AIR UNITS SOON TO SAIL HOME

Some of Squadrons Now in
England to Leave in
Few Days

The first A. E. F. organizations to leave for home will be certain air units, according to announcement from G. H. Q.

The number will include, however, some of the squadrons now in England. Many of the first soldiers of the A. E. F. who will watch the sun set over the Atlantic from the proud isthmus of the straits, therefore, will be men who have never been in France.

Some of these squadrons in England will start for home within a few days. Apart from these air units, the sick and wounded will form the chief vanguard of the homegoing army.

S.O.S. DROPS PLANS FOR IMMENSE ARMY AS LINE GOES EAST

European Contracts for Food
and Equipment
Cancelled

40,000 MEN GOING FORWARD

Divisions in Army of Occupation
Will Be Brought Up to
Full Strength

Construction projects of all kinds—docks, warehouses, railroad facilities, cantonments, gasoline tanks and so on—planned by the Service of Supply to serve an immense army of more than 4,000,000 men in France next spring were abruptly abandoned with the signing of the armistice, and European contracts for food, clothing and equipment cancelled.

Nearly \$1,000,000,000 proposed expenditures in America's war program were crossed off the Army's books at one stroke. At the same time plans were made for the pushing forward of the lines of communication to supply the advancing Army of Occupation and also to take care of the future backward flow of men and material to the base ports and harbors.

By the stopping of construction projects in the S. O. S., 40,000 men engaged in that work have been freed for other purposes, and they will be sent forward to the Army of Occupation to be used as replacements and being up to full strength the divisions that will be given the task of holding the bridgeheads on the Rhine pending the final conclusion of peace.

Still Busy in S.O.S.

The work of giving the reverse English to the supply facilities of the S. O. S. depots, warehouses and docks and making it possible to handle business flowing in both directions, instead of the one way to the front as in the past, will keep a large number of the busy for some time. At the same time supplies will continue to go forward as before. As one S. O. S. man puts it, "We are learning how to leapfrog both ways at once."

When the sick and wounded have been sent on their way homeward, the remaining men in the S. O. S., according to competent authority, will stay on the job of supplying the Army of Occupation until the final withdrawal of the American Army from Europe is begun. In other words, the great majority of the men in the S. O. S. will carry on at the same old and as long as there is an Army of Occupation on the Rhine front.

In the Transportation Service alone construction projects at 43 different places in France from Brest to Toulon and Bordeaux to the English Channel have been cancelled. Among the projects involved were an immense dock on deep water to accommodate 20 odd supply ships at once, ammunition docks and warehouses, engine terminals, light-house wharfs and storage yards, railroad sidings and double tracking of existing roads.

The locomotive and car program has been reduced by 2,500 locomotives and 61,000 cars, and orders for several hundred cranes of all kinds cancelled, as well as orders for hundreds of tugs, lighters, barges and floating derricks. Construction work for the construction of a Remount, Veterinary Hospital and Motor Transport projects has been limited to the completion of buildings and facilities already begun or necessary for future developments. The work of the Forestry Division in getting out piling and lumber for construction has been greatly curtailed and will continue unless conditions along the Rhine show a need for barracks and sentry boxes. And of course, orders for front line Engineer stores, such as trench materials, bomb proof shelters, barbed wire and so on, went by the board at once.

Ordnance Work Reduced

The Ordnance Department has been called upon to reduce greatly the number of its repair shops and storage depots and the program for tools and machinery for rifling, chambering, re-lining and retubing guns and howitzers, and for the repair of tractors and gun carriages has been reduced by two-thirds.

The Motor Transport Corps will reduce its program for motor vehicles of all kinds from an 80-division basis to a three-army basis. The Chemical Warfare Service has cancelled all its orders for defensive supplies in the United States and Europe and all offensive supplies, with the exception of enough to complete the equipment of all gas troops in the Army. The Air Service material program will be determined later, and all construction work has been stopped.

The Quartermaster Corps stopped manufacturing bread, emergency and trench rations with the issuance of the new orders. Contracts for mechanical bakeries and coffee roasting machinery were cancelled. Contracts for clothing in England, cloth in Spain and special clothing, such as fifty blue sweaters for the troops in the Vosges, were suspended.

No More Office Equipment

Shipments of typewriters, office equipment, rolling kitchens and animal-drawn vehicles were called off. No more marmite cans, braziers and cans, G. I. will be manufactured. No more purchases of band instruments and music will be made, except for bands of the Regular Army. Warehousemen sent from the Production which are not absolutely needed will be turned back to their owners, and no more charcoal will be purchased. Eight 55,000-barrel tanks will not be needed, and shipment will not be made.

The activities of the Garden Service will be limited to the production of vegetable gardens in the vicinity of hospitals.

The Medical Corps has been directed to provide for normal hospitalization on a basis of 7½ per cent of total strength, instead of 15 per cent as heretofore. Construction work in progress at a number of places has been stopped and authorization for other hospitals cancelled. The Signal Corps has cancelled all requisitions for divisional equipment, both in Europe and the United States.

HER BEST THANKSGIVING



BREST COMES UP FROM BOTTOM AND LEADS PORT RACE

Midnight Movies and Band
Music Help Week's
Victors

ALL BASES SHOW BIG GAIN

Fortnight Freight Unloading
Shows Increase of
22 Per Cent

The second week of the S. O. S.'s special freight-unloading race to Berlin saw the port of Brest raise itself by its boot straps out of the cellar position it occupied during the first week of the contest and land itself first in the race with a kerplunk. The week also saw the old port of Bordeaux keep its second place in the seven days' standing, with a good over-and-above average, and the port of Marseilles, which headed the race for the first week, dropped to third. But, as has been shown by Brest, there is always a chance for a come-back, and you never can tell what will happen in the S. O. S. For example, who would have dreamed two weeks ago that the main base ports could have increased their freight unloading figures 22 per cent in one brief fortnight? More than that, their work of the last week shows a raise of 15.22 per cent over the figures of the week previous.

Here are the figures for the second week, with the exception of enough to complete the equipment of all gas troops in the Army. The Air Service material program will be determined later, and all construction work has been stopped.

Port	2nd Week	For 2 Weeks
Brest	176,230	281,531
Bordeaux	130,164	253,171
Marseilles	124,108	228,408
La Pallice	115,555	217,637
St. Nazaire	113,748	227,770
St. Nazaire	111,050	216,589
Rochefort	98,331	214,386
Rouen	88,592	195,633
Nantes	63,762	195,777

From the second column of figures it will be seen that the standing of the ports up to date is, in order, Brest, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Le Havre, La Pallice, St. Nazaire, Rochefort, Rouen and Nantes.

Midnight Movies at Brest

At Brest free movies are being shown on the docks at midnight three nights out of the week for the benefit of the night shift. To boom things along even more, the 13th Marines' band has been detached from its regular assignment to the port of Brest, and the band has been made the official musical organization of the base. And Major O'Neill, who sent his representative around town cutting the question marks out of the "Race to Berlin" signs is beginning to throw out his chest quite a bit. While it doesn't show up in the figures, it is only fair to the port of Brest to state that, instead of knocking off and having a party on the Glorious Eleventh, the Stevedores threw in a little more steam and unloaded 10,642 tons of freight on that memorable day, which is a record so far in the contest, and most astounding in view of the fact that Bordeaux's daily average for September and October was only 6,131 tons.

For the first week of the contest, the Brest gang unloaded an average of 7,923 tons a day, and for the second week boosted it to 8,395 tons. During the middle of the week there was a slump due to the shortage of ships, and the gang declares that it will not be satisfied until it has passed the 10,000 ton mark as its daily average for a whole week running.

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SOLDIERS ON OCEAN DOUBT PEACE NEWS

But When U-Boats Fail to
Fight, Armistice Is
Celebrated

When the good ship Nansemond, loaded with 1,200 horses, 165 enlisted men and four officers, picked out of the air over the North Atlantic on November 11 a message saying that fighting had ceased in Europe, everybody, including the K. P.'s, yawned, smoked an extra pipeful of tobacco or a dozen cigarettes and crawled into his bunk early. Nobody could kid them.

But the next noon, when a U-boat was sighted plowing peacefully along off the port side just out of gun range, they all thought, as the king said, "there's something in it." When, a few hours later another U-boat, being sighted, acted like a trained and performing duck but without sign of hostility, everybody was almost convinced. There was some talk, of course, that U-boats had run out of ammunition or had mutinied, but when a British admiralty wireless was intercepted next day saying that the zig-zagging was no longer necessary and ships could light up 165 men and four officers for good codfish breakfasts, seasickness and all the other trials of the voyage and marched the decks singing and cheering. That evening there was a special armistice dinner of chicken and plum pudding, and the boys smoked cigarettes on deck and the vessel sped straight ahead with all portholes looking like searchlights.

First in After Armistice

The Nansemond was the first big troopship to arrive at St. Nazaire after the armistice had been signed. "Why didn't you make some noise?" asked a disappointed St. Nazaire, who had expected that the men on the troopship would jump overboard in their hurry to learn the news the minute a hint was shouted to them.

"We left out voices on the ocean back there," "We've celebrated every inch of the way in."

MADAME PAQUIN PICKS A.S.C. COLORS

Steel Gray and Marine Blue
Selection of Paris
Modiste

It took Madame Paquin herself to choose and match up the distinctive colors of the new Army Service Corps, which, being the first big Army department organized, found that the rainbow had been pretty well riddled of available shades by the other branches, which picked their colors months ago. The A. S. C. major with the color picking job on his hands had an inspiration. Service colors being necessary mostly for piping on officers' overseas caps, and Madame Paquin knowing quite a little about millinery in general—why not let the famous Paris modiste solve the problem in color harmony?

As for Madame Paquin, she considered herself honored at being able to serve the American Army. So, after much matching of ribbons and laying of colors on olive drab cloth, Madame Paquin decided that steel gray and marine blue would be just about right. Her selection is now official.

LETTERS HOME NOW MAY MENTION TOWN AND GIVE ALL NEWS

Censorship Relaxed Also to
Permit Sender's Full
Address

CASUALTY RULING STANDS

Use of Camera Still Requires Special
Authorization—Regard
for Accuracy Essential

In view of the armistice, new rules of mail censorship have been adopted, to continue in force until further notice. The old rules governing the contents of soldiers' mail have been suspended in part, but retained in certain instances.

You may now tell where you are in your letters home (don't forget to do so in your letter to Dad next Sunday) and you may mention the name of your company, regiment, or other organization right out bold under your name on the outside of your envelope. A sample of the letter head that may be employed and the wording to go in the upper left hand corner of the envelope is:

Corporal John Smith
Co. A, 1st Infantry,
American E. F.

The A. P. O. number, if you know it, should also be used. The military address is still in force, and civilian addresses in France, that is, by towns and departments, are not to be on the outside of the envelope.

You may discuss freely the activities and locations, past and present, of the organization to which you are attached, with, of course, due regard to accuracy. You may not, however, criticize the government of the United States, its conduct or its policy, or that of any of the Allied Governments.

Casualty Letters Checked

Letters mentioning individual casualties by name must still be routed via the Central Records Office and the envelopes must carry the words "Via Casualty Section, Central Records Office, American E. F., Bourges, France."

Photographic post cards you may send to the United States or to Allied countries, even if they tell where you are, the lifting of the ban on the mention of localities, relieving many soldiers who have wanted to send back pictures of the places in which they were quartered. But, as before, the rule holds tight that no immoral post cards, pictures, text, etc., can be forwarded.

Members of the A. E. F. are as stringently forbidden as ever to invite strangers to communicate with them, to correspond with strangers in response to invitations from the latter, to solicit gifts of any sort, to attempt to do any of these things, or to cause or permit any other person to do them. It is prohibited, just as before, to forward communications through intermediaries in such a way as to appear to evade the censorship rules.

The restrictions in regard to letters and post cards also apply to pack-ages. It is forbidden to include in any outgoing parcels any necessities of life, any property of the United States or of Allied governments, or any explosives or portions of explosives which are still dangerous, or other dangerous matter. Telegraphic, cable and telephone messages are all subject to the general rules covering letters and post cards.

The censorship rule prohibiting the taking of photographs by any member of the A. E. F. not specially authorized to do so remains unchanged.

LID OFF CENSORSHIP FOR FATHER'S LETTER

New Rulings Announced Just in Time to Allow
Family to Know Whole Story of
Your Life in France

TONS OF WRITING PAPER IN SIGHT FOR SUNDAY

Postmaster General Promises to Speed Messages at American End—Don't Forget the Inscription:
"Dad's Xmas Letter"

All right, fellows! Get the dilatory digits of your writing hand limbered and lined up, fall in the thumb as right guide, sharpen your fountain pen and fill your pencil (or vice versa), get a strangle hold on good intent, and write that Christmas Victory Letter to Dad Sunday. Everything is all ready.

Everything is all ready for the grandest carnival of letter writing that the world has known since writing became popular in the best circles. Roughly, a number of men not very far under two millions are going to sit down and write a letter to their father—or somebody else's father—on this side of the ocean, and somewhere near a million fathers, we should say offhandedly, on the other side of the water, are going to do likewise. The U.S.A. end is all fixed.

The American news agencies, the Associated Press, the International News Service and the United Press, have sent the word across to America that every son in the A.E.F. is going to write to his dad on Sunday, November 24; and that every son in the A.E.F. expects his father to write to him on the same day. It puts it right up to the old gent—the time being appointed and everything—and, also, it puts it right up to us over here.

If you don't write next Sunday you are going to have a hot time explaining why you didn't. That's a certainty.

Censor's Whiskers Come Off

The censorship regulations (see 5th column, this page) have been revised, dehorned, truncated and in other ways have got what's coming to them. The censor has removed his green whiskers and appears as a pretty harmless individual. You can tell where you've been and what you've done. You can tell where you are now, so the censor is supplied there won't be any dearth of things to write about. The trouble will be telling it all.

Tell the old gent the battles you were in, whether it was Château-Thierry or Tours.

Tell him how we licked 'em. Tell him how you helped. Tell him what you're doing now. Tell him when you'll be home. Pardon us. But you can tell him pretty near everything you can think of now.

All the necessities of letter writing there will be aplenty. The auxiliary organizations of the A. E. F. are seeing to that. Paper is going forward, backward, sideways and in every other direction in spite of any blockades by counter movement or inertia. Also, the auxiliary organizations are going to extend themselves as much as possible, and at some places where it is practical Dad's Christmas Victory Letter Day will be observed with the consideration which it deserves.

For Army of Occupation Trucks going forward behind the Army of Occupation carry papers and envelopes, pen and ink. Representatives of the Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army, Red Cross and the Jewish Welfare Board will make special efforts to distribute it.

Just a few words to the Army of Occupation. This advance notice on Sunday, November 24, and from the doped we get you probably will be—and it is impossible for you to write on that day, do it on November 25 or 26, and your letter will get aboard Dad's Christmas Victory Letter Ship with the rest.

It is for this advance notice that we make the only exception. It is essential that all the rest of the mail be written before the close of next Sunday and that it be censored in the companies and organizations as soon as possible. Company censors and mail orderlies are urged to expedite this work to their utmost.

There are 21 complete hospital trains now in service, and contracts for 29 more have been held up. Contracts for 20 trains designed to carry sitting cases only have also been held up.

Many Plans Suspended

Fifteen thousand additional beds in now hospitals, mostly converted hotels, in the district about Nice and Mentone will be taken over according to plan. New medical units will continue to arrive from the States for some time, because with the rapid transportation of fighting troops to France the Medical Department had not been able to maintain its authorized proportional strength.

A number of A. E. F. hospital units which have been attached to the British forces since the United States entered the war will probably learn soon whether they will be returned for duty with the American forces.

21 GERMAN TAKEN TO ONE AMERICAN

A.E.F. Captures 44,934 Prisoners, Loses 2,082 to Enemy

The American troops in all their fighting in France took more than 21 German prisoners for every American captured by the enemy.

The total number of Germans captured by the Americans is 44,934, not including prisoners made during the last few days of hostilities in Belgium, of which no tabulation has yet been made. The number of American soldiers in German hands at the time of the armistice, as reported to the military attaché of the American Legation in Switzerland as of October 15, was 2,082.

Of the German prisoners 682 are officers and 44,252 enlisted men, while the American captured, according to the latest returns received by the A. G. O., A. E. F. were 209 officers and 1,873 men.

CANTEENS NEAR RHINE

Y. M. C. A. and Red Cross divisional staffs and representatives of other A. E. F. auxiliary organizations, will accompany the American Army of Occupation into Germany and continue to minister to the soldier's needs as heretofore. Canteen supplies will follow the men on the march.

Huts, recreation and writing rooms and libraries will be opened in the occupied territories and will be operated in an even greater profusion, probably, than before the signing of the armistice. The Red Cross had ordered several hundred huts for use on the front this winter, and many of these are available for immediate use for the advancing Army.

If You Don't Know the Address

Remember the fathers of every one of the old gang who is gone. Write to them. If you don't know the company clerk and can't get it from the company clerk, try any other convenient source, send it to THE STARS AND STRIPES, and we will do our best to see that it is delivered.

In answer to inquiries, it may be said that members of the Army auxiliary organizations are included, too, every one in the line, the greatest possession in an even greater profusion, probably, than before the signing of the armistice. The Red Cross had ordered several hundred huts for use on the front this winter, and many of these are available for immediate use for the advancing Army.

In the hospitals the Red Cross is going to make complete distribution of paper, pen and ink. Special workers will be on hand to take the dictation of any soldiers who are not able to write