

MEUSE-ARGONNE SAW A.E.F. MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT

C-in-C. Describes Battle's Three Phases in Report to Secretary Baker

OTHER UNITS WITH ALLIES

Strength of Army in Europe, Excluding Losses, 2,053,347—1,338,169 Combat Troops

The second instalment of General Pershing's report to Secretary Baker concerning the activities of the A.E.F. deals with the Meuse-Argonne operations and the work of other units with the Allies. The report follows:

On the day after we had taken the Saint Mihiel salient, much of our corps and army artillery which had operated at Saint Mihiel, and our divisions in reserve at other points, were already on the move toward the area back of the line between the Meuse River and the western edge of the forest of Argonne. With the exception of Saint Mihiel, the old German front line from Switzerland to the east of Rheims was still intact. In the general attack planned all along the line, the operation assigned the American Army as the hinge of this Allied offensive, was directed toward the important railroad communications of the German armies through Mézières and Sedan. The enemy must hold fast to this part of his lines or the withdrawal of his forces with four years' accumulation of plants and material would be dangerously imperiled.

Our right flank was protected by the Meuse, while our left embraced the Argonne. The German Army had been placed in elaborate defenses, screened by dense thickets which had been generally considered impregnable. Our order of battle from right to left was the Third Corps from the Meuse to Malancourt, with the 33rd, 80th, and 4th Divisions in line, and the 3rd Division as Corps reserve; the First Corps from Malancourt to Yverdon, with the 70th, 37th, and 91st Divisions in line, and the 32nd Division in Corps reserve; and the First Corps from Vauquois to Vienne-le-Château, with the 35th, 28th and 77th Divisions in line and the 92nd in Corps reserve. The Army reserve consisted of the 1st, 29th and 32nd Divisions.

On the night of September 25 our troops quietly took the place of the French which had long been inactive. In the attack which began on the 26th, we drove through the barbed wire entanglements and the heavy artillery and machine gun positions. No Man's Land mastering all the first line defenses. Continuing on the 27th and 28th, against machine guns and artillery of an increasing number of enemy reserve divisions, we penetrated to a depth of from three to seven miles, and took the villages of St. Mihiel, the commanding hill, and Exermont, Gercourt, Cuisy, Septsarges, Malancourt, Ivroy, Eplonville, Charpeny, Very and other villages. East of the Meuse, one of our divisions which was with the Second Colonial French Corps captured Marolles and Richeville, giving further protection to the flank of our main body. We had taken 10,000 prisoners, we had gained our point of forcing the battle into the open, and were prepared for the enemy's reaction which was bound to come as he had good reason to expect. Our divisions were bringing up the heavy artillery and machine guns.

In the chill rain of dark nights our engineers had to build new roads across spongy, shell torn areas, repair broken roads beyond No Man's Land, and build bridges. Our gunners, with no thought of sleep, put their shoulders to wheels and drove our heavy batteries through the mire in support of the infantry now under the increasing fire of the enemy's artillery. Our attack had taken the enemy by surprise, but, quickly recovering himself, he began fierce counter attacks in strong force supported by heavy bombers with large quantities of gas. From September 28 until October 4 we maintained the offensive against patches of woods defended by snipers and continuous lines of machine guns, and pushed forward our guns and transport, seizing strategic points in preparation for further attacks.

Other Units With Allies

Other divisions attached to the Allied armies were doing their part. It was the fortune of our Second Corps, composed of the 27th and 30th Divisions which had remained with the British, to have a place of honor in co-operation with the Australian Corps on September 29 and October 1 in the assault upon the Hindenburg line where the Saint Quentin Canal passes through a tunnel under a ridge. The 30th Division speedily broke through the main line of defense for all its objectives, while the 27th pushed on impetuously through the main line until some of its elements reached Guoy. In the midst of the maze of trenches and shell craters and under cross fire from machine guns, the other elements fought desperately against odds. In this and in later actions, from October 6 to October 19, our Second Corps captured over 6,000 prisoners and advanced over 13 miles. The spirit and aggressiveness of these divisions have been highly praised.

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BREST WINS RACE; ROCHEFORT SECOND IN STEVEDORE TILT

Breton Port Reaches 800 Per Cent Goal in 45 Days

ROUEN, MARSEILLES NEXT

La Pallice, Bordeaux, Le Havre, Nantes and St. Nazaire Trail Quartet of Leaders

In six weeks and three days, instead of in the eight weeks laid down for the Stevedores' contest, Brest came through a winner and reached "Berlin."

That is, Brest made its score of 800 just 11 days before the allotted time. It did it in spite of the fact that considerable changes had to be made at the port in view of its being turned into an embarkation center and in spite of the time necessarily lost on account of the President's arrival there. Starting at the bottom of all the ports for the first week in the contest, it ran through the field and breasted the tape 13 points ahead of Rochefort, its nearest rival.

Here is the way the ports lined up at the finish:

Table with 2 columns: Port Name and Score. Brest: 800, Rochefort: 787, Rouen: 783, Marseilles: 783, La Pallice: 738, Bordeaux: 666, Le Havre: 661, Nantes: 660, St. Nazaire: 606.

Leaves for Winning Companies

The winning Stevedores companies in the ports, the companies having the best average in freight unloading for the period of the contest, are to be granted leaves as soon as the details can be arranged, in accordance with instructions from the Commanding General, S.O.S. They will be sent to Chambury, in the Savoy area, not far from Aix-les-Bains, to enjoy seven days of respite, plus the travel time taken in getting down there and back.

Also, those same winning companies are, on the completion of their leaves, to have priority of return to the States. They will be returned in what the paper-work people call "periodic inventories" as soon as they are replaced by labor organizations employed elsewhere, which have not been in France as long as they have. While, naturally, the winning company at Brest, the winning port, will be taken care of first, as betfits its standing and will have a chance to go with the outfit in the Race to Berlin, the others will follow in short order. That is to be the policy of the Transportation Service, as officially announced.

French Civilians Help

Brest's winning Stevedore outfit is Company M, 84th A.T.C. Its members came over with Major John O'Neil, Brest Stevedore chief, as Company M, 301st Stevedores, in November, 1917. Their work in the past has won them the praise of General Pershing and General Atterbury, the transportation head, when the general has been inspecting the port and the officers who have been boosting the contest most heartily—Lieutenant Colonels Stern and Coney and Major Barndollar—acclaim "Old M" the best of its kind in the A.E.F.

Rochefort's success in reaching second place, it should be stated, is due to a large measure to the zeal of the French civilians employed on the American-run docks and to the splendid backing given the Race by the French mayor and townspeople. Rouen, too, would not have climbed up and nailed down third place had it not been for the help of the French civilians working at the docks—for the port has not a single American Stevedore. Rouen furthermore enjoyed the hearty co-operation of the British, French and Belgian authorities, who did all in their power to help the American stevedores and non-coms in charge of the unloading job there to put the port on the map.

Some St. Nazaire Records

For the tail-enders, for St. Nazaire, a word of great credit is due in closing. The Stevedores at Camp 4 that port discharged more tonnage than at any other A.E.F. port, and hold the day, week and month records of the A.E.F. Though St. Nazaire never headed the weekly lists of the ports, its spirit was always high and the end saw no falling down in its efficiency. The same might be said with great justice of the other contenders in the race. The total tonnage discharged at St. Nazaire during the eight weeks previous to November 3, when the race started, exceeded that of any other port and still stands as an A.E.F. record, despite the competition. "It was absolutely impossible," says Lieutenant Hart, St. Nazaire's contest officer, "for the port to increase her percentage sufficiently above her own record for her to win the race."

SAILORS CAN VISIT A.E.F. BATTLEFIELDS

Many Take Chateau-Thierry Excursion When on Leave in Paris

The gobs are taking Chateau-Thierry. Small detachments are pushing on toward Montdidier, and some have even advanced to Rheims.

Some days there are large detachments, some days no men are sent, for it all depends upon the state of mind of the gobs—whether he wants to see the places where his O.D. brothers fought, or would rather spend his leave in Paris. The commanding officer of the Naval Forces in Paris has arranged with the commanding general of the District of Paris to permit all naval personnel desiring to see the famous battlefields to visit them, going from and returning to Paris when they are in the capital on leave.

THE FUTURE



ADOPTIONS' CLOSE FAILS TO PREVENT INFLUX OF FRANCS

Signal Corps Camp, 5000 Strong, Among Final Parrains of A.E.F.

FUTURE PLAN TAKES SHAPE

Aim Is to Give Children Chance They Would Have Had If Father Had Lived

The A.E.F.'s war orphans, 3,444 strong, completed today their first week as a composite, organized family, with father and children doing nicely—so far as the children are concerned, a whole lot more nicely than might, by a normally conservative person, be expected.

The degree to which this necessity might exceed expectations may be indicated by the fact that, at the rather early age of seven days, the A.E.F.'s 3,444-lets already have something laid up in the bank for them against the day that they will need it. Their nest egg, it shall be said, is the risk of delving too quickly into franc talk and of scrambling sentiment and finance, totals right now 123,047.40 francs—on top of the 500 francs per child for the first year.

The early arrival of all these francs, and the fractional part thereof, at the hands of THE STARS AND STRIPES was more or less unexpected. At any rate it came in sooner and in larger amount than anybody present expected. And its arrival means that the Orphan Department, in acknowledging it, has got to explain, sooner than expected, something of the plan for the future of the A.E.F. war orphan family which has already been outlined broadly but which is not yet ready for presentation in detail.

Just a Leather Pouch

The influx of the francs started when Col. Carl F. Hartman arrived in town with a leather pouch. The leather pouch looked innocent, but when opened and emptied, its contents looked like a Master Signal Electrician's monthly pay. It totaled 78,000 francs.

Col. Hartman is the C.O. of the Signal Corps Replacement Depot which, geographically, includes 14 towns in the vicinity of Com-Cheverny, near Blois. There were 5,000 men in the depot, so that the 78,000 francs represents a per capita average of 15 francs.

After they had raised the amount they got to thinking, they figured that the 78,000 francs would adopt 150 orphans for a year. Also they figured that, on the same basis, it would adopt 15 orphans for ten years and 31 orphans for five years. And they figured that, in view of the end of the fighting and the probability of the French government's being able to help its own orphans, long term adoptions might be better.

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50 CENTIME NOTES FOR ARMY ON RHINE

New One and Two Franc Bills Also to Replace French Silver

A new issue of French paper money, 50 centime, one and two franc notes, will be used in paying the American Army of Occupation about Cologne. No French silver will be handed out by American paymasters in Germany.

The French government has contracted to deliver immediately many francs' worth of the new 50 centime, one and two franc notes to the American Army. The paper currency also will be used in paying the French, British and Belgian armies in the occupied zones.

Although chambers of commerce in most of the important cities of France have been issuing fractional paper currency during the war, the small paper notes have not hitherto been utilized as a part of the national currency system. A policy is now being formulated to govern the methods by which American soldiers in Germany, as well as soldiers of France and England, may exchange their French money for marks according to their needs. The difficulty is the fact that the value of the mark in its relation to the dollar, pound and franc has not yet been determined by the financial agents of the countries now engaged in the peace negotiations.

For Other Prisoners

To facilitate payment of American officers who had been prisoners in Germany, the Chief Paymaster's department has set the exchange value of the mark at 238. Officers are entitled to full pay for the period they were held by the enemy, less any payments made to them by Germany under treaty agreement. Enlisted men who were prisoners also will receive their back pay.

BONDS NOT COMING OVER

The Q.M.C. at Washington will not mail Second Liberty Loan bonds to soldiers in France, according to rules stated on notifications being received by members of the A.E.F. This ruling was based on war-time ocean transportation hazards, and possibly may be changed, A.E.F. Finance Department officials say.

Second Liberty Loan bonds subscribed for by men in France on the allotment payment plan were paid up on July 31, and the War Department at Washington is now making deliveries in the States by registered mail.

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BILLETS DE LUXE FOR THIRD ARMY; ASK HANK GOWDY

Doughboys Worry Along Amid Hardwood Floors and Heavy Rugs

GENERAL MISSES OPERA

But Coblenz Folk Have Excellent Excuse for Not Giving Command Performance

This is the story of the softshies of the Third American Army. For the Yankee troops who were assigned to take and hold the Coblenz bridgehead are leading the life of Riley on the Rhine.

They are stretching out at night in such billets as they never dreamed of in the days before the armistice. The officers and men are dwelling, all of them, in such comfort as they had not known since last their own front zones swung to behind them. They are living some of them, in such elegance as they had never known before in all their days, nor will again. Every incident and circumstance of their daily existence is tremendously and dramatically different from what it would have been had the war gone on—so gammy with its rain and snow a-coming on.

The house that shelters the headquarters of the 32nd Division at Rengsdorf is the kind of modern palace our senators build when the Fifth Avenue staff is on them. The 1st Division staff is swinging along at Montabaur in such a structure as you expect to find planned in a "Town and Country" article under the title "How to Be Beautiful Though an Office Building." Now that the grenade-throwing season is over, the 166th Infantry has moved into a glass house at Oberwinter. Its regimental headquarters is busking in the solidarium of a country club whose windows look down on the magical Rhine which flows by to the strains not of the Lorelei, but of the regimental band at practice.

Not Only Generals

It is probable that when General Douglas MacArthur was dwelling in a fragrant French barn in the Argonne he little guessed that after his Christmas dinner he would have his coffee warping along at Montabaur in such a structure as you expect to find planned in a "Town and Country" article under the title "How to Be Beautiful Though an Office Building." Now that the grenade-throwing season is over, the 166th Infantry has moved into a glass house at Oberwinter. Its regimental headquarters is busking in the solidarium of a country club whose windows look down on the magical Rhine which flows by to the strains not of the Lorelei, but of the regimental band at practice.

But not merely generals are at ease. Doughboys of lesser rank—such as privates—are billeted in hotels and cow-houses. Doughboys frosh (as the saying is) from a 300-kilometer hike across Europe can be heard and seen skidding.

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9x4x3'S HERE IN TIME FOR SECOND A.E.F. CHRISTMAS

Children of France Remembered by Many Yankee Santa Clauses

GERMAN GEESSE DISAPPEAR

Third Army Not Only Part of America in Europe to Have Candle-Lit Trees

With French children cuddled up against befriending Yanks all over France, and with virtually all of their 9x4x3's actually in hand, the A.E.F.'s second Christmas in France passed off with great éclat. Though celebrated 3,000 miles from home, it was in all respects truly American, truly heartening, absolutely satisfying.

There were few men who did not receive their 9x4x3 boxes from home in time for the great day. A week prior to Christmas fully 80 per cent of those boxes had been turned over by the Military Postal and Express Service to the regulating stations at the front, and practically the whole of the remaining 20 per cent reached their destinations within the week that followed.

Fifty-five carloads of the little pasteboard packages were sent up to the front from Brest alone. Twenty-seven were sent out of St. Nazaire and 12 more from Bordeaux. One of the Christmas package boats got in a bit late, but its contents were unloaded in record time, and if there is any member of the A.E.F. whose label was correctly addressed and who did not leave his box unopened without furnishing a clear forwarding address who did not get his Christmas package at least by yesterday, the M.P.E.S. would like to know it.

St. Nazaire Typical

It is obviously impossible to chronicle here all the Christmas activities of the A.E.F., but what happened down at St. Nazaire is typical of what happened in thousands of towns stretched all the way from Gascony and the near-Spanish border right up into Rhenish Prussia.

At St. Nazaire the Yanks had 10,000 of their young French friends as guests, with real gifts, pulled off real Christmas trees by real Santa Clauses. Engineers who have been over here since August, 1917, erected a mammoth tree in their camp grounds and invited in all the children of the countryside until their happy faces filled the camp, and the event became the talk of the town. Fruits, candy and clothes fairly rained off that tree.

At Camp 1 in St. Nazaire, 15,000 Yanks awaiting homeloomed boats were hosts to hundreds of children. They even forewent their issue candy to deck up the tree properly, and put on a Punch and Judy show that made their young friends squeal and chortle with glee. As the debarkation process is to boom in earnest from now on, that Christmas at the debarkation camp furnished those Yanks with practically their last memories of France, and precious memories they were indeed.

In the Leave Areas

In the various leave areas at the A.E.F.'s disposal, all the way from St. Malo on the Brittany coast to the warm shore of the Riviera, some 25,000 Yanks spent the day in celebration, song and reminiscence.

Geese were the main features of the Christmas celebration of the Army of Occupation, many a comely frau exchanging her long-fatted fowl for the soap which the Yanks produced in abundance. Large, stolid, typically German geese were the mainstays of many a mess sergeant along the Rhine and behind and beyond, since the turkey, being the best of the allied alliance of Germany with the Sultan, does not thrive on German soil.

Every man in France and Germany should have received a Christmas package from the Y.M.C.A. unless he went out of his way to dodge it. Last Friday packages for the whole Third Army—including 80,000,000 cigarettes—were already at Metz, Trier and other railheads ready for distribution.

FLOUR BAG SCRAPINGS USED TO STUFF DOLLS

Best of it Goes for Poultry Feed, Rest to Toy Shops

It's quite some distance, all told, from Coblenz, say, to the place reserved for a light-colored, blue-eyed doll under a Christmas tree somewhere in the States, but Uncle Sam, through the medium of the salvage department at Tours, bridges that tremendous span with all the thoroughness and wisdom borne of many months of fighting—and saving—on all his little fronts.

Take that star sack there, the one lying at the mess sergeant's feet. Its contents have just been emptied on behalf of the troops holding the Rhine bridgehead, or any bridgehead anywhere. There is a little flour left in the bottom of the sack, and there is a lot of it piled on the sides.

That sack, with several million others, goes to the salvage station and is there fed into a big hopper which steadily pounds out all the flour and cleans the bag.

The flour dust proper is carefully gathered and sold for poultry feed. The rest of it, much mixed with fat, is sold to make a kind of plaster used in doll-making.

And who can tell, in this era of coincidences, but that little Louise on Christmas morning did not receive her doll counterpane from Daddy across the sea made of flour from the very bag out of which he had eaten hot cakes some months before?

PRESIDENT TAKES HIS FIRST LEAVE AS A.E.F. MEMBER

Goes to London for Conference With British Statesmen

CHRISTMAS WITH HIS ARMY

Week in France Occupied by Informal Conversations With Allied Leaders

Today sees President Wilson in London. After spending Christmas with the A.E.F. in the area about Chaumont and Langres, he left France yesterday, arriving at Calais in the morning and reaching the British capital in the afternoon. He will return to France early next week.

Mr. Wilson left Paris for Chaumont at midnight Tuesday, arriving at the A.E.F.'s General Headquarters town the following morning. There he was met by General Pershing and conducted to the Hotel de Ville of Chaumont, where a brief ceremony which included speeches by the mayor and the prefect of the department of Haute-Marne was gone through with. This concluded, he moved with General Pershing and the French regional commander to the reviewing ground near Langres.

The big feature of his Christmas morning was the review of about 10,000 Yanks in the vicinity of Langres.

The President next motored to the headquarters of the 28th Division at Montigny-le-Roi, had Christmas dinner in an empty base hospital fixed up as a mess shack, visited more Yanks in billets, and generally chummed around with the Army. Imagine the doughboys' surprise on hearing that their chief actually used the well-known issue mess kit.

At the headquarters of the 28th Division included one battalion of the 6th Division, one from the 26th, one each from the 29th, the 77th, the 80th and the 82nd; artillery from the 77th Division, and two troops from the 6th Cavalry, plus auxiliary forces, such as ammunition and supply trains and the like. The President delivered an address to some troops in the neighborhood of the village of Ilmes.

About 3:30 in the afternoon he arrived back at Chaumont, where he attended a brief reception at General Pershing's chateau, meeting a number of high French and American officers. Six o'clock that evening saw him again on his special train bound for Calais.

With the President on his visit to the so-called "old training area" were Mrs. Wilson, Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, Miss Benham, Mrs. Wilson's secretary, and several other members of the President's confidential secretaries. Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, General Harbo and a number of aides completed the party.

Getting Ready for Peace

The President's work during the week just past has been largely occupied with the informal conversations with Allied statesmen which constitute the necessary preliminaries to the formal discussions relative to the approaching peace conference. Already he has done a great deal of work, and seen a great number of high French and American views on the great problems to be discussed at the conference he wished to get at first hand. Besides King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, M. Clemenceau, French Premier, and M. Pichon, French foreign minister, he has conferred with Lord George, British Premier, and with France, with Count Romanones, Spanish Premier, with Signor Orlando and Baron Sonnino, Italian Premier and numerous others. In England he is to confer with David Lloyd George, Prime Minister, with Arthur Balfour, head of the British Foreign Office—who visited the United States a year and a half ago as head of the British mission—and with Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Last night the President dined with King George of England at Buckingham Palace in London. The King and Queen, in the presence of the King and Queen. It is, by the way, the first time that that edifice has ever housed an American president as guest. Tonight the program provides for a dinner to the President, tendered by the Lord Mayor of London, in the historic Guildhall tomorrow. The President will visit Manchester, the heart of industrial England.

To Visit Mother's Home

Sunday the President will make a family pilgrimage, in strict accordance with the British custom, to where his maternal grandfather preached in the little Wesleyan chapel more than 100 years ago. He will visit there the house where his mother was born, and generally renew his ties with the old city. That completed, he will return to London to hold further informal conferences and then entrain for a channel port to return to France.

From the point of view of the A.E.F., perhaps the most interesting of his acts during the week just past was the visit which the President made on Sunday morning to the American Hospital at Chaumont, on the outside Paris. There he saw, shook hands with and talked with every one of the 1,200 Yanks who are now being nursed back to health there. He went out intending to stay an hour. He stayed four.

In the afternoon, the President visited the French hospital at Val de Grace, near Paris, where a number of American wounded are being taken care of. "I just want to go in and visit the boys and have a chat with them," was the way the President introduced himself at Neuilly. Through the wards he strolled, stopping to talk often to the patients on it and talk familiarly with the cot's inmate.

"We hope to have you back soon with us," he told a number of men, with a smile and a pat on the back. "I wish you the best of luck and a speedy recovery."

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