

BRITISH GENERAL BESTOWS PRAISE ON YANK DIVISION

Americans Free 15 Villages and 3,000 Inhabitants; 3,400 Prisoners

LILLE-METZ LINE REACHED

Attacks in Face of Austrian Mountain Batteries Firing With Open Sights

American troops fighting with British and Australian won this week a concrete testimonial of their worth in the shape of a congratulatory telegram from General Sir Henry Rawlinson, commanding the Fourth British Army.

The occasion of the telegram was the capture of the towns of Brancourt and Fréumont. But Brancourt and Fréumont themselves are well behind the American line between Cambrai and St. Quentin now.

The telegram reads: On this, the first occasion on which the American Corps has taken part in battle on its own, I desire to convey to you, General, and all members of your staff, as well as to all ranks in the Division, my hearty congratulations on your victory over the gallant Fourth Army and the precision with which all staff arrangements have worked has filled me with admiration, and I have no great pleasure to report your unqualified success.

Up to Lille-Metz Line More than that, the height of the advance found them not on the Siegfried line, the next German defense system to the east of the Hindenburg line, or on the Hindenburg or Kriemhilde line, next east, but in touch with the great Lille-Metz line itself.

The series of attacks which accomplished the final advance, bringing the line to the river Selle, a stream that would impede the enemy's progress, broad jumper, never more than shoulder deep, and with banks perhaps three feet high, began a week ago Tuesday morning and ended on the Friday following.

The attacks were made in the face of heavy machine and artillery fire—they were made even in the face of Austrian mountain batteries of 7.5's firing with open sights.

Those attacks often caught the enemy with enfilading fire. One stretch of road 100 feet long was strewn with the bodies of 20 Germans, each almost touching the other. It was the work of a single Yankee machine gun that had advanced far enough to flank a center of German rear-guard resistance in its battling retreat.

The tanks were in it. The crews trocked all the night that preceded the attack, and the tank was far more exhausting than the attack itself. And the men within them felt far more fear for gasoline fumes than they did for German shells.

On in Their Zigzag Course

They went on in their zigzag course, dodging shellbursts as well as a tank can hope to. Two tanks surprised an enemy battery from the rear, killing the entire crew.

The tanks did wonderful work, but the doughboys went ahead of them, which was no fault of the tanks. One hastily scribbled report from an Intelligence Police officer had this sentence in it when headquarters read it: "These damned Infantrymen are walking the legs off of me."

When the operation ended, when the whole 32-kilometer-in-nine-days race had been won, the Germans were digging in hastily on the slopes that run up from the eastern bank of the Selle—digging in where they had had no opportunity of putting wire in front of their positions and small prospect of getting that opportunity. It was evident, however, that, come what might, they were preparing to stand as long as possible on that line.

The released civilians, 3,000 of whom were freed by the Americans, in addition to other thousands liberated by British and Australians, had stayed in the little villages along the Selle through the thickest of the firing. They crowded into the hamlet of La Haie Menessee a thousand strong—the normal peace-time population of the town is 550. As a result, there were not enough sheltering cellars for them when the Hun began to bombard the lost town, and five were killed by a single shell while a Yankee patrol was scouring the village shortly after its fall.

In the larger town of Bohain, one edge of which the Americans crossed in their advance, were 4,000 civilians. There were 1,400 in the village of Busigny.

Villages Almost Intact

Most of the villages in this region are not nearly so battered as those that lay in front of the late Hindenburg line, and through which the tide of battle has swept four times in as many years. There is, of course, not one which is not in need of at least slight alterations before it can be called habitable, but there are some which are almost intact.

A detachment that billeted in one place where a room was still a roof had matters wonderfully simplified for it through the discovery of the billeting map which the Germans had been using not many days before. The German numbers were still on the houses, and the

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TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

MY SECOND visit to France has again taken me from the ports to the front line trenches. Since April, incredible progress has been made. The ports, the transportation and storage facilities, the training camps and all the accessories necessary to make our great Army effective have been developed and strengthened. The Army has greatly increased in numbers and the spirit and training of our men has continued to be high and worthy.

To the people of the United States you are, in the first place, "Our Boys," and your careers here are followed with affection and pride. The health of the Army shows your prudent regard for your effectiveness as soldiers and the wholesomeness of the life you are living.

In the next place, you are, to the people at home, "Our Soldiers," and whether you are sending supplies to the front or fighting at the front, you represent the strength of our country in operation for the vindication of the great principles upon which all human liberty must rest. We are proud of your steadfastness, your courage and your success.

I shall return to America to tell your friends there that on every hand in this country I have heard praise of your conduct both as men and soldiers. Taken all together, the Army of which you are a part is perhaps the finest achievement of our country.

You are such soldiers as a Democracy ought to produce, and we at home shall pray for your welfare and look for your further successes until you, with the Armies of our Allies, become the victors in this struggle and you return to America with your task accomplished.

Hearty yours, NEWTON D. BAKER, Secretary of War.

October 11, 1918.

NO WOCS IN A.E.F.; NEW DRAFT AGES WILL FILL NEEDS

Plan for Separate Woman's Corps for S.O.S. Now Abandoned

50,000 MEN TO COME OVER

Limited Service Class Will Provide Clerks, Labor Foremen, Cooks and Other Workers

There will be no Wocs in the A.E.F. after all.

The separate woman's corps of the Army has been abandoned. The Government has decided that the new draft law, enrolling men between 18 and 45, will enable the Army to fill all its labor needs with limited service men, so that thousands of girls and young women need not be called to France.

Men who would not be accepted for Army duty, overseas are to be brought to France by tens of thousands to fill the heavy specialized needs of the S.O.S. department. They will be enrolled in the new Army Service Corps, which, should it be filled to authorized strength, will consist of 100,000 men and more than 1,500 officers.

50,000 Asked For

The Commanding General, S.O.S., has asked Washington to supply soon 50,000 of these limited service men, and in reply the Government has promised that 5,000 will be sent within a month, the 50,000 eventually to be supplied. 1,000 will be used as cement makers, 1,050 as cooks—perhaps after a training course—2,000 as labor foremen, and 14,800 as clerks, typists and stenographers. The other 31,150, for miscellaneous needs, will be supplied from "run of draft."

The decision to use limited service men comes at a time when Miss Elsie Gunther, of the Labor Bureau of the A.S.C., is in the United States, where enrolling of women had already been put in full force. One hundred women were to have been sent to France as soon as arrangements could be made. To care for these women hotel billets had already been provided in certain towns and some special barracks had been made ready. It is expected these women will be sent to France when they arrive.

Saving Money for Uncle

The new plan will mean a large money saving to the Government, as the A.S.C. men will receive Army pay and Army accommodations when the plan is fully worked out, whereas a higher rate of pay and housing requirements of a higher order would have been necessary to attract enough women to fill labor needs.

Some departments of the S.O.S., however, are continuing to bring women, and fifty young women typists and stenographers have just arrived for work in the Ordnance Department offices. They landed in civilian dress, and, to comply with a French travel regulation, were provided with brassards and metallic ornaments for their jewelry.

Whether all the women now employed in S.O.S. offices will be superseded by men is doubtful, as thousands of French women are so employed, in addition to the women who have already arrived for special work.

U. S. WAR GARDENS TOTAL 5,285,000

Crops Worth Over Half Billion, Says Head of Commission

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 17.—A total of 5,285,000 home food producing garden plots were planted in the United States this year, and the 1918 war garden crops are worth over \$525,000,000, according to the report of Charles Lathrop Peck, president of the National War Garden Commission.

The war garden movement has made phenomenal progress since its inauguration. A gain of 51 per cent is recorded in the financial results of this year as against 1917.

The boys' and girls' agricultural clubs were more than 115,000 boys enrolled and produced food the value of which is placed at \$4,500,000. Negro boys raised a small fortune in crops.

109 ORPHANS IN WEEK—TOTAL 234

ADOPT A CHRISTMAS GIFT WAR ORPHAN!

This is the slogan of a campaign which THE STARS AND STRIPES has inaugurated to accomplish, between now and Christmas, the adoption of at least 500 child mascots by the A.E.F. units and members—a campaign to secure food, clothing, comfort, schooling for 500 little French children whose fathers have paid the supreme price for liberty.

We are out to give at least 500 little French boys and girls A CHRISTMAS PRESENT WHICH WILL LAST A WHOLE YEAR.

We have these children listed, photographed, investigated by the American Red Cross—all ready for adoption. And we offer them to the O.D. Santa Clauses from overseas—FIVE HUNDRED CHRISTMAS GIFT WAR ORPHANS AT 500 FRANCS EACH.

Get out the old Who's Who in This War and enter the A.E.F. as a philanthropist.

The A.E.F. got a smile on its face this week, a paternal twinkle in its eye, and beamed all over. It went into its inside pocket and came out with more francs than you would ever think it had if you've tried to float a pre-payday loan lately.

As an amateur Santa Claus and fairy god-father to the war orphans of France it did itself proud. To the appeal of THE STARS AND STRIPES for Christmas, all-the-year-around aid for children whose fathers gave up their lives in this war, for children rendered homeless by the Hun, the response was lusty and eloquent.

When all the adoptions received had been tabulated and counted, when all the hearty expressions of good will and well wishes had been read and noted, it was found that 109 fatherless little children had found a parent in the A.E.F. and wouldn't have to worry about the wherewithal for their daily bread for a whole year. Also, it was found that all previous weekly records for the number of adoptions had been broken and that the half way mark to the 500-Christmas goal which we had set was already near attainment.

All Sorts of All Sorts

This week's answer was even more general than last week's, which counted in its seven days the adoption of 28 children. There were all sorts of reasons for the success. There were organizations in all sorts of places, several of them notable for the size of the contribution which accompanied them. One regiment of Artillery took 16 children and two companies of an Infantry regiment at the front took ten between them. One military hospital adopted two, and a detachment of the division of construction fathered four. One contribution comprised the proceeds of a benefit boxing carnival.

There were more than a score of individual adoptions. Lieutenants are particularly plentiful in the latest list of parents. Thirteen of them sent in their contributions for children which they will care for personally. Next to lieutenants on the list of individuals were privates—yep, the same.

Privates, 4; lieutenants, 13; chaplains, 1; captains, 1; majors, 0; colonels, 0; generals, 0. STARS AND STRIPES score in the individual adoptions. We haven't much comment to make on this standing—yet. But it's no wonder the German military critics get away with the assertion that we're short of higher officers. They probably don't know that the Medical Detachment orphan department figures to prove it.

One of the children—lucky little rascal—adopted by women of the A.E.F. was taken by two telephone girls jointly, making a total of three to the credit of the telephone unit. The second was taken by a Y.M.C.A. worker.

Boosting Things 1,600 Per Cent

The Field Artillery, which 'won this week's loving cup (imaginary) for the biggest single order, started out, at the instigation of Chaplain Harry C. Fraser, to raise 500 francs for one orphan. When they finished they had 8,000 francs—enough for 16.

"There seems to be a good connection, among these wagon soldiers of the —, between their heartstrings and their pursestrings," wrote Chaplain Fraser.

We are not exactly parlor ornaments ourselves, being just plain un-fussed-over regulars, so we could appreciate it if you would pick us out 16 of the friendliest orphans, girls, of course, you can find. We'd like 'em assorted, but sticking as closely as possible to the following specifications: red-headed, frooked-faced, pug-nosed. "If you can find us one with a couple of teeth missing, the Supply Company would appreciate it. Headquarters Company wants one that stutters if it is big enough to have acquired that accomplishment, and the Medical Detachment pledges itself to furnish colic mixture for theirs if that would help any." Red-headed orphans again! And it's not the only request for them this week, either. We may say that, in answer to

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A POILU DIED FOR HIM

MORE LEAVE AREAS; FIVE NOW RUNNING AS A.E.F. CENTERS

Dauphine Region, in Heart of Alps, Will Accommodate 2,500

ARDECHE SPRINGS ON LIST Ancient City of Grenoble Is Center of Mountainous Country—Winter Sport Plans

Two more leave areas, one situated right in the heart of the French Alps, the other in the Ardèche sulphur spring region, will be opened to the men of the A.E.F. about November 1. These additional choices for soldiers on furlough will have accommodations in all for 3,500. This makes a total of five A.E.F. leave areas in France.

The larger of the two areas to be opened next month will be known as the Dauphine leave area, in the Department of Isère, with the city of Grenoble as its center. Uriage-les-Bains and Allevard-les-Bains, neighboring water resorts, will be utilized for the housing and entertainment of the permissionnaires.

Both places have much to recommend them. Situated amid towering mountain ranges, they offer ideal opportunities for winter sports. The region abounds in old castles, water falls and rick views.

The Y.M.C.A. branch for the area is making arrangements to supply visiting soldiers with ice skates, skis, bob sleds and all that goes to make for enjoyment of frost and snow. The casinos at both Uriage-les-Bains and Allevard have been taken over and will be used for entertainment purposes.

Attraction of Grenoble

The city of Grenoble is one of the most historic in the Alps region. It has a population of 125,000 and is noted as a glove manufacturing center. It was the capital of Dauphiné in the days when little principalities obtained all over France, and is now the chief city of the department of Isère. It is popular with tourists, and its chief thoroughfare, Cours Saint-André, a 5-mile avenue, is famous for its trees.

The Ardèche leave area will have its center at Vals-les-Bains in the department of Ardèche. The latter is expected that 1,000 men will be accommodated here. The climate, which is mild, and the Vals-sulphur baths are among the attractions.

Excursions to points of interest will include Aubenas, an historic old town, and the Gorge of Ardèche. The latter is especially notable, being one of the closest approaches in Europe to our own Grand Canyon.

YANKS HAVE PART IN SUCCESSES OF ANOTHER BIG WEEK

Overcome Frantic Resistance and Break New Line of Enemy

PRISONERS TOTAL 17,000

Second Army Formed Under Major Gen. Bullard—Major Gen. Liggett C.O. of First

The week that ended Wednesday, October 16, saw the greatest series of advances made on the Western front since the First Battle of the Marne. It gave promise, too, of still greater movements to come.

The part played by the First American Army in that advance may be summarized as follows:

On the morning of October 14—the 19th day of the battle northwest of Verdun—the American forces attacked afresh, and before that day was done had made a definite breach in the Kriemhilde Stellung, the formidable line of defense which the Germans had been busily preparing as their retirement position.

The breach reached from Landres-et-Scorpies to Hill 182 and all through Tuesday our soldiers steadily widened it. Romance-sous-Montfaucon, that once was an important railway center, soon lay behind them. St. Juvin was passed. Far to the left, American troops, with the Forest of Argonne combatants to their rear, were making their way across the River Aire. On Wednesday came the capture of the important town of Grandpre and of the Bois des Loges.

Thousands of Machine Guns

The advance was made in the face of unrelenting fire and against thousands of machine guns. It was made over mined roads and against troops which were the very best the enemy could muster and which were ordered, every man of them, not to yield an inch of that precious ground.

The lower pan—with a draught almost two inches—will hold a whopping lude full of soup or stew, or all that even the most altruistic mess sergeant would allow to be loaded into it. The lid part has a depth of over half an inch and a wide, sharply turned edge all around that is guaranteed to prevent steam heat and other roiling vegetable from sliding off when a reasonable angle is maintained.

A major in the equipment bureau of the Ordnance Department designed the new mess kit after observing company messes at the front. He says that Mr. Hoover might object to the big holding capacity, and the dry cleaners' union might denounce the non-spilling, non-splashing rim that keep gravies from spilling on to doughboys' laps, but he is confident that the divisions now getting the kits will be envied by the men who are still using the old magician and jugalut outfits.

SHIP RECORD AGAIN MADE IN SEPTEMBER

Seventy-Four Vessels of 369,330 Tons Are Turned Over

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 17.—September has marked up another world's record in ship construction. During the month 74 vessels were completed and turned over to the United States Shipping Board, in addition to one vessel completed for Japan.

This adds 396,330 deadweight tons to our merchant marine, beating the August record by 30,000 tons. During the week ending October 2, 26 vessels were completed and turned over to the Shipping Board.

Nearly 11,000 young men volunteered for service in the merchant marine during the past month, going far beyond the capacity of the board's training ships for student mariners.

READY FOR PROHIBITION

AMERICA, Oct. 17.—One big New York hotel has decided to beat prohibition to it. It has just installed a splendid soft drink fountain.

NO PEACE WITH HOHENZOLLERN; SAYS PRESIDENT

Armistice Is Question for Allied Military Leaders to Decide

DESTRUCTION MUST CEASE

Third and Fourth Exchanges of Diplomatic Notes Leave Move Up to Germany

The reply of the German Foreign Secretary to President Wilson's note of October 8 and the President's reply to the German Foreign Secretary, dated October 14, are given below. They form, respectively, the third and fourth communications in the vital diplomatic moves of the past few days.

GERMANY'S ANSWER

Germany's answer of October 12 to President Wilson's reply of October 8 to the German Chancellor's proposal for an armistice:

In reply to the questions of the President of the United States of America, the German Government hereby declares that the German Government has accepted the terms laid down by President Wilson in his address on January 8 and in his subsequent addresses on the foundation of permanent peace and justice.

Consequently its object in entering into discussions will be only to agree upon the practical details of the application of these terms.

The German Government believes that the Governments of the Powers associated with the Government of the United States also adopt the position taken by President Wilson in his address.

The German Government, in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian Government, for the purpose of bringing about an armistice, declares itself ready to comply with the proposals of the President in regard to evacuation.

The German Government suggests that the President may occasion the meeting of a mixed commission for the making of the necessary arrangements concerning the evacuation.

The present German Government which has undertaken the responsibility for this step toward peace has been formed by conferences and in agreement with the great majority of the Reichstag.

The Chancellor is supported in all his actions by the will of this majority and speaks in the name of the German Government and the German people.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER

President Wilson's answer of October 14 to Germany's note of October 12:

Washington, D. C., Oct. 14.—In reply to the communication of the German Government, dated the 12th inst., which you handed me today, I have the honor to request you to transmit the following answer:

The unqualified acceptance by the present German Government of a large majority of the German Reichstag, of the terms laid down by the President of the United States of America in his address of January 8, 1918, and his subsequent addresses, justifies the President in making a direct statement of his decision with regard to the evacuation of the Western Front.

It must be clearly understood that the process of evacuation of the Western Front of an armistice are matters which must be left to the judgment and advice of the military and naval authorities of the United States and the Allied Governments, and the President feels it his duty to say that he will not make any statement on the part of the United States which would be construed as a pledge or a promise of any kind.

The President feels that it is also his duty to state that the United States will not be a party to any armistice which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards and guarantees of the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the United States and the Allied forces of the Allies in the field.

He feels confident that he can safely assume the responsibility of making a statement and decision of the Allied Governments. The President feels that it is also his duty to state that the United States will not be a party to any armistice which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards and guarantees of the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the United States and the Allied forces of the Allies in the field.

At the very time that the German Government approaches the Government of the United States with proposals of peace, its submarines are making a constant way to German ships at sea, and not the ships alone, but the very boats in which their passengers are being transported to safety.

The President feels that it is also his duty to state that the United States will not be a party to any armistice which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards and guarantees of the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the United States and the Allied forces of the Allies in the field.

The President will make a separate reply to the loyal imperial government of Austria-Hungary.

OLD RECORDS IN SERVICE

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 17.—Photograph records that are not working are being used in 500 cities of the United States to turn in all that are old the use of the Army and Navy.