

VILLAGES LINKED IN RECORD TIME BY RAILWAY UNIT

Seven Hours, Three Minutes, Sees 2.69 Miles of Track Laid

135 MEN FOREGO SMOKES BUT DON'T GET HOPEFUL

Director General of Railroads Himself Cables President—But Not for Help

While the units that had been engaged in the recent fighting were blissfully enjoying a well-earned rest, 135 members of the first company of Railway Engineers to arrive in France celebrated victory by establishing what is believed to be a new track laying record, completing 2,69 miles of narrow gauge railway in seven hours and three minutes.

The work marked the completion of an important railway line from one French town to another, upon which the company had been working for several weeks. Officers present when the record was made were outspoken in their conviction that the gang could have easily completed four miles during the full working day of 12 hours had there been further track to lay in that sector.

A captain and a lieutenant were in charge of the detail. All necessary materials for the job had to be brought up from behind, two 60 cm. steam locomotives pushing the rail cars forward as soon as a section of track was spiked down. Two motor trucks were used for hauling ties.

The amount of material handled gives more than a hint of the magnitude of the task and the tremendous amount of labor involved—approximately 165 tons of steel rails, 7100 ties, 1830 pairs of fishplates, 8 kegs of bolts and 37 kegs of spikes, making a total of over 230 tons.

"Nous le faisons toujours," replied the captain when complimented upon the showing made by the company. "We always do it," is by the way, the motto of the company although the bucks usually use the free translation, "We produce the goods."

"We Produce the Goods"

The company had been producing the goods in France for 13 months, erecting warehouses, surveying, laying track, grading, stringing pipe lines, building barracks, installing electric lights, constructing railroads, and operating everything from 15 ton cranes to Ford ambulances, remodeling hospitals—in short, performing all the manifold and endless duties of Yank Engineers. Assignment to the construction of a light railway line was a welcome change, and the work was pushed in a way that earned the commendation of superior officers.

Then came news of the Chateau-Thierry drive. Determined not to let the Infantry get too far ahead, the men redoubled their efforts. Each day brought to them the pleasure of going through the grinding details, working several miles ahead, finished their end of the job and drove their mules back to the base camp. They maintained that even Heine assisted at the job by loosening the stony ground of logs by means of operating the amount of track laid. The grinding details, working several miles ahead, finished their end of the job and drove their mules back to the base camp. They maintained that even Heine assisted at the job by loosening the stony ground of logs by means of operating the amount of track laid.

"That's where the rub comes in. It would take much rolling stock to transport several thousand soldiers the length of France every week—possibly too much."

"The doughboys will be in Berlin before we reach the Rhine at this rate," commented one buck private. "We'll have to lay four kilometers a day."

"That's impossible," remarked the French interpreter. "Impossible, hell," rejoined the buck.

Cable to the President

Next day the men laid 12,300 feet of track, a performance that so pleased the Director General of Railroads, who was present, that he sent a cable to President Wilson commending the company. The interpreter no longer spoke of impossibilities.

The captain believed that the men could do even better, so he called a conference of the sergeants and, after telling them of his plans, regaled them with several selections from Kipling. When the company assembled at the morning of the big day, the G.O. told them that he wanted the job finished by supper time.

"What's the use of working until supper time?" piped a voice from the rear rank. "Let's finish the job by noon and get a half day off."

"Track was laid that morning at an average rate of 33 feet to the minute. Train crews rushed the material over the lines as fast as the rails could be loaded on the cars. One gang worked ahead stringing ties, another unloaded the rails and threw them quickly into place, as soon as one section was completed the rail car was pushed ahead. When one car became unruly and decided to leave the track, it was pushed out of the way by sheer man power.

Speed, speed, and then some more speed, without even a pause to roll a wheel. The track seemed to go forward by leaps and bounds, especially when the gang caught sight of the truck that carried the mess waiting at the end of the line. At 1:33 p.m. the lieutenant, who had been giving a lift on the rails, threw his hat in the air and yelled "Final!"

"Seven hours and three minutes," announced the captain. "Some birds." They were racing for the truck where "Sammy," who can make even bread pudding palatable, was shouting, "Come on, get it!"

Everyone was pleased, including Spike, the hard-boiled wild bear mascot, who strutted around as if claiming credit for any new records made in that neck of the woods. The captain congratulated the doughboys who passed on the congratulations without sending them through the proper military channels. The mess sergeant showed his appreciation by serving canned salmon

MONTE CARLO IS OFFERED A.E.F. AS PLAYGROUND

Prince of Monaco Visits Aix and Gives Army Glad Hand

Little Principality Is Far from Line and Trains Are Already Overburdened

Monte Carlo, world famous playground, and the entire principality of Monaco of which it is a part, situated on the French Riviera where the breezes of the Mediterranean exercise a soothing influence on the winter thermometer, have been offered to the A.E.F. as a leave center.

The offer was formally made by His Serene Highness, the Prince of Monaco, ruler of the little country, and is now being considered by G.H.Q. Whether or not it can be accepted is a question. There are difficulties as to fuel, distance and transportation which are serious, but there is a possibility that American soldiers will toast their shins this winter in the Palais du Soleil where, heretofore, nobody much lower in financial rating than a near-millionaire has trod.

The Prince of Monaco has been among many notable visitors at Aix-les-Bains, the first American leave center in France, during the last few weeks. He became a familiar figure around the Casino of Aix, which has been converted into Y.M.C.A. headquarters, and where wealthy and famous civilian guests are mingling with 832-a-month-and-up doughboys. He speaks English perfectly and had a chance to use it among Americans when he made a trip to the United States a few years ago.

Renews His Acquaintance

On that trip to the States he learned to like American methods of doing things with the American soldiers recently intensified the sentiment. A few days ago he called on J. A. Springer, in charge of the Aix Y.M.C.A., and Colonel French, American commander of the leave center, and formally offered his whole principality for the use of American soldiers on permission. There were some steps to be taken, he said, as regards the international situation of Monaco and possibly some local laws to be changed. But as for the laws, he would change them in 24 hours.

The offer was forwarded to Y.M.C.A. headquarters and G.H.Q. and is under consideration at both places. The hotels of Monaco would harbor from six to eight thousand soldiers. The prince offered the Palais du Soleil as a Y.M.C.A. headquarters to be utilized as the Casino d'Aix as a place for dances, reading, lounge and billiard rooms, theaters and canteens.

But No Gambling

The famous gambling casino of Monte Carlo is not now open to soldiers of any nation, and this rule would not be changed. But the Americans could have the pleasure of going through the Casino outside of business hours and seeing where speedier games than crap or black-jack are played.

Monaco is one of the smallest independent countries in the world. It is near Nice and touches the Italian border. It is 30-odd hours from the nearest front line trench in France.

That's where the rub comes in. It would take much rolling stock to transport several thousand soldiers the length of France every week—possibly too much."

G.O.P. SPOKESMAN GIVES PEACE TERMS

Senator Lodge Demands Germany Return or Free Violated Territories

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Aug. 29.—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, whom the Republicans of the United States Senate have unanimously made minority leader to succeed the late Senator Galinger of New York, today made a long speech in the Senate regarding the peace terms which he considers the irreducible minimum. He has outlined the following conditions:

Belgium must be restored. Alsace-Lorraine must be unconditionally returned to France, and the iron and coal of certain basins taken from the Germans. Italy, Ireland, including Trieste, must go to Italy. Serbia and Rumania must be restored to independence. Greece must be made safe. The Czechoslovak and the Jugoslavians must be established as independent States.

Free Russia Demanded

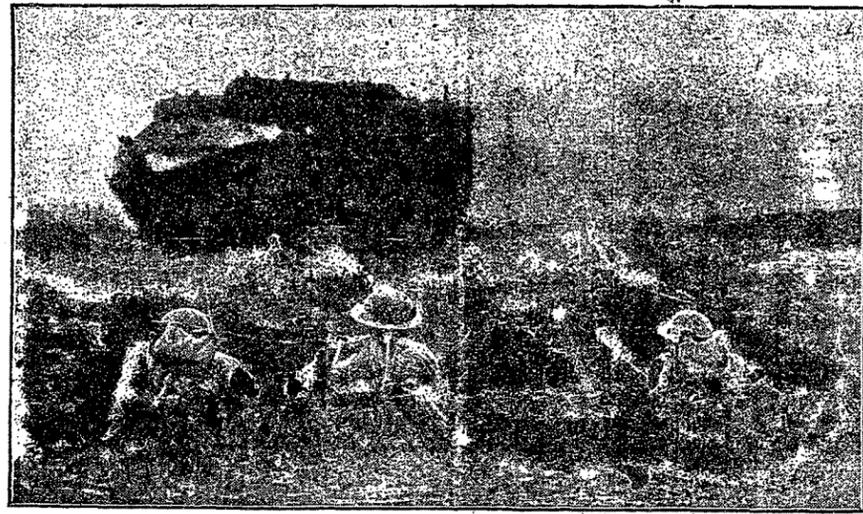
There must be an independent Poland, and the Russian provinces taken from Russia by the peace of Brest-Litovsk must be restored to Russia. Constantinople must be taken from Turkey and placed in the hands of the Allied Nations as a free port, to bar Germany's way to the East and hold the Dardanelles open for the benefit of mankind.

Turkey must go out of Europe—Turkey and Bulgaria must share the fate of their master and be so treated that they will be unable again to trouble the world. Palestine is never to be returned to Turkey.

The Senator says: "No peace that satisfies Germany can satisfy us. There cannot be a negotiated peace. It must be a dictated peace, and we and our Allies must dictate it. The victory being such a free port, to bar Germany's way to the East and hold the Dardanelles open for the benefit of mankind.

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GOING AFTER 'EM IN THE BEST OF COMPANY



BRITISH STRIKE HINDENBURG LINE AS FRONT WIDENS

Germans Are Squeezed Into Dangerous New Salient, Lose Heavily

Somme Names Ring Again

Advance Takes in 1916 Battlefield—Bapaume Entered—New French Attack

The week that ended Wednesday, August 28, saw the Allied attack spread like a flame in two directions, widening the battle front of the previous week, which had seen the German withdrawal from Montdidier and the crushing of the great salient that since March had been bulging westward toward Amiens.

It saw the British, after a series of splendid advances, battling, overrunning, still advancing, squarely on the so-called Hindenburg line.

It saw the creation of another great German salient, no more formidable than the Amiens bulge, which later the enemy could hold only by his possession of the initiative and a preponderance of officers. Now, thanks to the Allied offensives of the past month and more, he no longer possesses either of these advantages.

Enemy's Morale Impaired

Leaving the ground won out of the question, considerable though it is, and judging the course of the battle by the enemy's losses and the fact that he has been compelled to draw on his reserves—not to mention the unquestionably impaired morale of his troops—we find that the toll of prisoners since July 18, when the counter-offensive south of Soissons opened, must now have reached 125,000, when the last 25,000 had been taken during the week that ended Wednesday by the British alone.

The steady British advance between the south of Arras and below the Somme brings back into the official chronicle of the war the names of the German villages and redoubts that were overcome in the battle of the Somme in the summer and fall of 1916. But with a great difference. Whereas such a fortress as the plateau of Thiepval held out for months in 1916, this time it fell to the British in a single night.

The German resistance stiffened markedly on Sunday and Monday, and heavy counter attacks even won back some ground, but the British overcame this resistance and pushed forward on both sides of the Somme and northward to the British in a single night.

On Tuesday the French again attacked, pushing well ahead toward the Somme where that winding river runs almost north and south.

By Wednesday night the advance had reached the heights overlooking the lower and liberated two score villages in two days.

At the same time it was announced that American troops between the Oise and the Aisne had repulsed enemy counter attacks. The Germans also made strong efforts to recross the Vesle south of Ranzelles and Fismes in the face of American resistance.

BIG SUMMER FOR CARUSO

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Aug. 29.—Enrico Caruso, the Italian tenor, is having a great summer, what with going into the movies and getting married and one thing and another.

He was married this week to Dorothy Park Benjamin. The wedding, which was staged at the Marble Coastline church, New York City, created a mild sensation for several reasons. For one thing, Caruso is Caruso. For another, there were no announcements and the press agent, who did not hear about it till after it was all over, is said to be in a great state of the sales. Then, the family of the bride, well known in New York society, was conspicuous by its absence from the ceremony and by its frozen silence thereafter.

14 STATES RATIFY BILL FOR DRY U.S.

Strong Meat May Replace Strong Drink—Ostrich Roasts Now

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Aug. 29.—The legislatures of 14 States have now ratified the national prohibition amendment to the Constitution, the 14 being Mississippi, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Dakota, Maryland, Montana, Texas, Delaware, South Dakota, Massachusetts, Arizona, Georgia and Louisiana, named in the order of their ratification. Only 22 more States are needed to make the amendment binding.

In the midst of this tribulation news comes of a holocaust in Kentucky, where the Green River Distilling Company's plant burned down. Forty-three thousand barrels of whisky were destroyed without trace. It is a \$9,000,000 loss, and Uncle Sam loses some millions in prospective revenue.

Strong food is promised, however, to replace strong drink. The Food Administration has permitted the Phoenix, Ariz., ostrich ranch to slay 700 nice, strong birds for the market. They will produce the old bird is really displaying 15 cents a pound, and for the first time in the history of the poultry business the dealers will not try to weigh the feathers.

HAPPY NATION BANS SPREAD-EAGLE STUFF

Country Sober and Sensible, Boasting Forgotten as Victories Thrill

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Aug. 29.—Newspaper comments on your achievements and the war situation generally are refreshingly sane, sober and sensible, and our once favorite spread-eagle stunts in considerable dignity now that the old bird is really displaying his ornithological abilities.

The whole country seems to have a keen sense of the fact that you over there have set your face against boasting. The big steady temper of the country daily gives a fine revelation of the character of the nation for which you fight.

Not one of the various sensations springing in past months has been able to start our people off on any tangent, and it is ever newly astonishing to learn how justly the great American mass appraisal events and issues, and how sober its judgment and verdicts are.

SERVICE STRIPES TO DATE FROM ARRIVAL

Time Spent on Transport Is No Longer to Be Counted

The computation of time for the wearing of the gold service chevron will in future be made from the date of arrival at a French, British or other European port, according to a cablegram from Washington just received at G.H.Q.

In the past this time has been reckoned from the date on which the transport left United States territorial waters. Now, instead of counting from the first day out, we shall have to count from our first day in.

VENEREAL RATE DOWN

The venereal rate in the A.E.F. is only one-fourth as much as that among troops in the United States.

This information comes from the office of the Chief Surgeon and is taken from a report compiled from statistics relating to venereal disease both here and at home.

COUGH AIDS THEM IN NIGHT PROWL THROUGH FISMES

Battalion Finds Colonel's P.C. Amid Shower of Shells and Rain

NOBODY'S TOWN JUST THEN

Trail Through Disputed City Followed by Means of Rubbish-Covered Telephone Wire

In the nights of storm and battle that American soldiers have written into the archives of Fismes, there must be a chapter for the story of the battalion commander who was seeking a headquarters to which he might report his men for duty and, in the depths of that black and perilous town, traced it by an unintended cough.

It was a night when the guns on both sides were thundering without let-up. The rain fell ceaselessly. The battalion stole forward through the unrelieved darkness to the assistance of the regiment that had captured the city.

When the first reports say our troops have "captured" a city or village, it may mean one of several things. It may mean, for instance, that resolute doughboys have stormed the town, bayoneted a driven out all the enemy hiding there and then themselves withdrawn to doleful deluge from the guns. When next they sleep in among the half-pulverized houses, they are apt to find that both sides have also filtered back on the trail until the whole line has pushed on beyond, the town itself remains a sort of treacherous No Man's Land that must be mopped up again and again. It was that way at Serzy. It was somewhat that way at Fismes.

How to Find the Colonel

But on this night, the reinforcing situation found that the fiercest of the fighting had moved on across the Vesle to Fismes and that the colonel to whom the captain should report had gone ahead and actually set up his P.C. somewhere in Fismes. Somewhere in Fismes, at the certain stowed his very battalion in a ravine and made of with his adjutant in the direction of the forbidding city, he thought to himself that "somewhere in France" was no vaguer or more general an address than was 10:30 by the captain's wrist.

It was a night of hair-trigger uncertainty. To the left, in the stream bed of the shells and the rain, runners and aides and battalion scouts were groping their way as best they could. To the right, a reckless spy had caught a column advancing in the darkness and called out "Oho, the rear—no doubt at so opportune a moment, that he boys would have walked straight into a barrage if a quick-witted lieutenant had not halted them, challenged the mysterious order and turned them about.

Indeed, by Fismes, its desolation hid from where a burning house served as a torch to light the pathway for the own's redeemers.

No Time for Fancy Work

Fismes was almost an unknown quantity, for in such a tumultuous advance it brought the Americans from the Vesle to the Vesle there was no time for such fancy reconnaissance as prepared the attack on Vaux, when every man knew the land ahead by heart and every squad leader had a map or a photograph of the house that he was to clean up.

"Somewhere in Fismes." The sure guide would be the telephone wires if, despite all the shelling, they still ran their course to the new P.C. The captain searched and searched and, finding them, trailed them into the city.

Machine guns were making the sorry streets from across the river, so that the railroad embankment to the east. One sturdy placed gunner in a cellar had only an empty street as his target, but, by aiming for the curb where the street turned, he had been working havoc with hundreds of rifle-shot. The shells were falling with dreary regularity. Many of them were duds, but they were not all duds. Rat-a-tat-tat, rat-a-tat-tat, zing-boom, zing-boom, put-put-put, zing-boom, zing-boom, zing-boom.

It was in such a chorus that the captain and his adjutant crawled along the street, feeling their way by the faithful trail of the Signal Corps. Now and then they would drop flat and hope for the best. Now and then they would be

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BIG CAMPAIGNS UNITE

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Aug. 29.—A million drive to raise \$131,500,000 will be undertaken in November jointly by the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the War Camp Community Service and the American Library Association.

The National Catholic War Council, the Jewish Welfare Board and the Salvation Army will make a joint drive in January.

Thus there will be two big national subscription campaigns instead of seven.

EIGHT DIVISIONS CITED BY C.-IN-C. IN GENERAL ORDER

First, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32nd and 42nd Win Distinction

"FIT FOR TESTS OF WAR"

First and Third Corps "Came to Battlefield at Crucial Hour of Allied Cause"

The following general order has been issued citing the eight divisions, comprising the First and Third Corps, A.E.F., which were in action during the Second Battle of the Marne:

"It fills me with pride to record in General Orders a tribute to the service and achievement of the First and Third Corps, comprising the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-eighth, Thirty-second and Forty-second Divisions of the American Expeditionary Forces.

"You came to the battlefield at the crucial hour of the allied cause. For almost four years the most formidable army of the world has as yet seen had pressed its invasion of France, and stood threatening its capital.

"At no time had that army been more powerful or menacing than when, on July 18, 1918, it was again to be met in one of the fiercest battles of the war, and to enforce its brutal will upon the world and civilization.

"Three days later, in conjunction with our Allies, you counter-attacked. The Allied Armies gained a brilliant victory that marks the turning point of the war. You did more than give our brave Allies the support to which as a nation our faith was pledged. You proved that our altruism, our pacifist spirit, our sense of justice had not blunted our virility or our courage.

"You have shown that America's initiative and energy are necessary always, and claim for our history and our literature, their bravery, achievements and sacrifices.

"This order will be read to all organizations at the first assembly formation after its receipt.

"General, Commander-in-Chief, "August 27, 1918."

NUTRITION EXPERTS SHOWING COOKS HOW

Mass Sergeants Also Learn New Things About Diet Methods

Beighted cooks and mess sergeants—the other kind, too—are being converted into chefs and army dietitians.

One thing the experts are emphasizing is the care of meat after it is issued to company messes. This meat comes frozen from the refrigeration ships. The food inspectors show the mess men how to wash off the meat with a solution of salt water and hang it in the air behind screens so that it may be kept almost as well as fresh meat.

The nutrition bureau has been testing the possibilities of having meat shipped to France in solid carcasses instead of in quarters, with a view to saving cargo space.

NEW CAP FOR TRAIN CREWS

There's to be another new piece of hardware in the A.E.F.

U.S. FOR EVERYONE, SAYS NEW ORDER FROM PRESIDENT

All Other Distinctive Names to Be Dropped for Land Forces

APPLIES TO COMMISSIONS Rule That Concerned Officers Is Broadened to Affect Everyone in O.D.

The military land forces of the United States will hereafter be known solely as the United States Army. All other distinctive names, such as National Guard, National Army, Regular Army, Reserve Corps, and any and all others, will be dropped. The announcement is made in a general order by the President.

It means that the single insignia U.S. will be worn by all enlisted and commissioned members of the Army.

Announcement was made three weeks ago in a War Department cablegram that officers would hereafter wear only the U.S. as stated in this newspaper. The new order broadens this rule to apply to everyone in O.D.

Commissions in the Regular or National Army, National Guard or Reserve Corps will hereafter be regarded as commissions in the United States Army—permanent, provisional or temporary, as stated in the conditions under which the commissions were issued.

In line with this new provisional and temporary appointments in the grade of second lieutenant and temporary promotions in the Regular Army and appointments in the Reserve Corps will be discontinued during the war.

Embodied in G.H.Q. Bulletin

The President's order, as embodied in Bulletin No. 59, G.H.Q., A.E.F., follows in full:—

"This country has but one army, the United States Army. It includes all the land forces in the service of the United States. These forces, however raised, bear their identity in that of the United States of America. Distinctive appellations, such as the Regular Army, Reserve Corps, National Guard and National Army, heretofore employed in administration and command, will be discontinued, and the single term, United States Army, will be exclusively used.

"Orders having reference to the United States Army as divided into separate and component forces of distinct origin, or assuming or contemplating such a division, are to that extent rescinded.

"The insignia now prescribed for the Regular Army shall hereafter be worn by the United States Army.

Commissions in the U.S.A.

"All effective commissions purporting to be, and described therein as, commissions in the Regular Army, National Army, National Guard or the Reserve Corps shall hereafter be held to be, and regarded as, commissions in the United States Army, permanent, provisional or temporary, as fixed by the conditions of their issue; and all such commissions are hereby amended accordingly.

"Hereafter, during the period of the existing emergency, all commissions of officers shall be in the United States Army and in corps, departments and arms of the service thereof, and shall, as a term or for the period of the emergency, be held to be, and regarded as, commissions in the United States Army, permanent, provisional or temporary, as fixed by the conditions of their issue; and all such commissions are hereby amended accordingly.

"Except as otherwise provided by law, promotion in the United States Army shall be by selection. Permanent promotions in the Regular Army shall continue to be made as prescribed by law."

OUTLOOK IS DARK FOR XMAS PARCELS

But Chief Postmaster Has Not Given Up All Hope Yet

Just what will be done about Christmas packages for the A.E.F.?

That's the big question the chief postmaster down at Paris is trying to brush out. The chief likes Christmas packages just as well as anybody does, and he has used up many sheets of good bond paper trying to figure it out.

Every man in the A.E.F. is allowed a five-pound package for Christmas from home, in a single parcel, 700 cars a day for ten days to transport the gifts from the base ports to the ultimate customers in the S.O.S. and the Z. of A.

The railroads of France are doing their level best these days to supply and feed the Allied Armies, and a spare car is almost a thing of the past. But if there is any way of delivering Christmas packages to the A.E.F., the chief postmaster says he is going to find it.

Under the present conditions, however, such prospects look dark.

NEW EXCHANGE RATE

An alteration in the rate of exchange for American paper money is made in the new ruling from the Bank of France motor date of August 8, 1918. France 5.35 is now the rate for a dollar bill. The silver dollar exchanges at 5 francs flat, the gold dollar at 5.60.

This amends Sec. 111, Bulletin 4, 1917, G.H.Q., A.E.F.