

PRESIDENT PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO MEN OF A.E.F.

Proud to Be Fellow Countryman of "Such Stuff and Valor"

NOW ON SEA FOR FRANCE

Tells Congress Trip Is Necessary to Make Good What Soldiers Offered Lives to Obtain

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, President Wilson, left New York on Tuesday night for Brest, aboard the George Washington, formerly a German liner.

Peace Likely by Spring

In his address to Congress, delivered on Tuesday before he sailed, the President set forth his reasons for coming to Europe at this time, saying among other things that "we may hope, I believe, for the formal conclusion of war by treaty by the time spring has come."

The Allied Governments have accepted the basis of peace which I outlined to Congress on the eighth day of January last, as the Central Empires also have, and very reasonably desired my personal counsel in their interpretation and application, and it is my duty to give it in order that the sincere desire of our Government to contribute without selfish purpose of any kind to settlements which will be for the benefit of all nations concerned may be made fully manifest.

The peace settlements which are now to be agreed upon are of the greatest importance, both to us and to the rest of the world, and there are no other considerations or interests which should take precedence over them. The gallant men of our armed forces on land and sea have conscientiously fought for ideals which they know to be the ideals of their country. I have sought to express these ideals; they have accepted my statements of them as in substance their own thoughts and purpose as the associated Governments have accepted them. I owe it to them to see to it as far as in me lies that no false or mistaken interpretation is put upon them and no possible effort omitted to realize them.

Tribute to A.E.F.

The President began his address with a resumé of the work of the United States in the last year of war, announcing that a year ago we had sent only 145,918 men overseas, but that since then we had sent 1,350,513. "In all this movement," he added, "only 753 men were lost by enemy attack."

After paying tribute to the Allied nations, preceptors to the United States in the art of war, and reviewing the executive organization of America's effort at home, the President launched the following tribute to the A. E. F. and to the Navy:

No soldiers or sailors ever proved themselves more quickly ready for the test of battle or acquitted themselves with more splendid courage and achievements when put to the test. These are the men who played some part in directing the great processes by which the war was pressed irresistibly forward to a final triumph now now forgotten all that and delight our thoughts with the story of what our men have done and are doing.

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PROPER DISCIPLINE PASSPORT FOR U.S.A.

Returning Troops Must Present Soldierly Appearance

Commanding officers of all districts and bases in the S.O.S. from which troops are to be sent to the United States are instructed, by G.O. 201, to take measures to insure that the clothing, equipment and discipline—particularly discipline—of troops before their departure, in order that all members of the A.E.F. may make a creditable appearance upon their arrival in the United States.

The order further directs that the camps, cantonments, billets or barracks occupied by outgoing troops will be carefully and thoroughly policed when vacated. It adds that where units do not appear to be properly disciplined, all time possible preceding their embarkation will be devoted to disciplinary training, and it instructs all officers, commanding units or detachments that are returning to maintain discipline on board the transports and to insist upon a creditable and soldierly appearance of their men at all times.

In addition, the order enjoins commanding officers to see that the members of their commands do not send or take with them to the United States any loaded gas bombs, grenades, cartridges, fuses and detonators, or any portions of them, which are still dangerous or any other kind of explosive that would endanger life.

THE SOUVENIR

You may keep old Fritz's helmet For your Sue or Kate or Ann, You may hold your German rifle For your little girl to scan; No gas mask did I capture, No rifle and no lance— The only capture that I've made Is the heart of a child of France.

ALLIES JOIN YANKS IN GREATEST OF ALL THANKSGIVING DAYS

American Turkey Tastes Same Here as West of Plymouth Rock

C-IN-C. SPEAKS AT G.H.Q.

Voices Gratitude to Men in Khaki Who Loved Liberty Better Than Life

The "greatest of all Thanksgiving Days," in the words of the Commander-in-Chief, was celebrated last week throughout the A. E. F. all the way from the ports to the threshold of Germany. And the amazed civilian population beheld a slaughter of turkey and wondrous mightily.

At Chantonnay the Allied Missions attended, with officers and men stationed at G. H. Q., the ceremony in the courtyard, where General Pershing spoke and before the surrounding walls echoed with the shouts of the "Band of the Republic" and "America." General Pershing's speech follows:

Debt of Gratitude Repaid

Fellow Soldiers: Never in the history of our country have so many people come together with such full hearts as in the greatest of all Thanksgiving Days. The moment throbs with emotion seeking to break through the veil of their lives, their blood—to obtain, I can think of no call to service which could transcend this. I shall make my absence as brief as possible and shall hope to return with the happy assurance that it has been possible to translate into action the great ideals for which America has striven.

New Outlook on Life

In this hour of thanksgiving our eternal gratitude goes out to those heroes who loved liberty better than life and who sleep peacefully in the arms of their comrades, whose honorable scars testify stronger than words to their splendid valor; and to the brave fellows whose strong, relentless hands have grasped the enemy's power. Nor in our prayers shall we forget the widow who freely gave the husband, more precious than her own life, nor those who, in high heroism, have impoverished themselves for the sake of their comrades who, in more obscure posts here and at home, have furnished by willing toil supplies to the soldiers at the front.

The Mainstay of Peace

This spirit that has won the victory is to become the permanent and indispensable mainstay of peace and happiness. It is not a matter of individual choice, but of obligation. We should never give up our duty and of honor, and a deeper sense of responsibility to the nation and to God. May we give thanks that selfish service has given us this new vision, and that we are to return to our freer and our country with higher aims and a firmer purpose, alike enabling to ourselves and to those who have held the long vigil and have watched and prayed for us that we might worthily represent them.

DON'T GIVE ANYTHING AWAY

A.E.F. officers and men are instructed by G.O. 201, G.H.Q. not to give away or abandon to the civilian population any articles of uniform or equipment, serviceable or unserviceable, even those which are private property. All such articles, if it is provided, will be turned in for salvage.

FREE EDUCATION WHILE YOU WAIT FOR ORDERS HOME

World's Largest School Enterprise Will Open January 1

47,000 TEACHERS IN A.E.F.

They Will Supply the Faculty and Instruct the Eager Yank in Anything He Burns to Learn

If you want to utilize the long winter evenings that are even now descending upon the A.E.F. in learning something that you have not had time to learn during the busy fighting months of the spring, summer and fall—preferably something that will help you in holding down your old job or in helping you to corral a better one after you get back to the States—the machinery is all set for you to do so.

Now that the armistice has come, there is going to be a chance for every Yank, from London to Bowdoin, to learn something, by book or by hand, that he can draw on when he gets back into long trousers again. Beginning January 1 every outfit in the A.E.F. will have a school established in its immediate vicinity, and every one of those charming partygoers known as billeting officers has been instructed by G.H.Q. to provide the proper accommodations for the school.

If the school in your locality does not teach just the things that you want, the things that, for your particular line, you have the option of taking a correspondence course conducted by men who have made correspondence courses and university extension services famously useful throughout the West.

All Free and Voluntary

Just to show the variety of things you can take up in your spare time, we list a few of the subjects in the training area of your day's work in the S.O.S., here is the way the list of subjects starts off:

47,000 Teachers in A.E.F.

By signing up for a course in anything from architecture to just plain learning to spell, no Yank should get the idea that he will have to stay over here to complete it. The minute your unit is ordered back home, you will be ordered back home, whether you are a student or not. If, however, you are in no hurry to get back—perhaps there are a few such—and want to complete the course you have started on you will have the option of staying on here—and even of putting on citizens' clothes—after completing your work.

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ARMY'S HAM ACTORS WILL GET TRY OUT

Vaudeville and Parlor Play Artists May Tour A.E.F. Circuit

Amateur or professional vaudeville artists in the A.E.F. are to have a chance to show their comrades just how well their acts get over, according to a plan which the Y.M.C.A.'s entertainment department has been working out and is soon to put into execution.

All Sorts of Shows

As a sort of companion piece to its educational activities, the Y is working on its entertainment program in every branch, in order to assure every hut as many shows as can be secured and of as much variety as possible. The aim will be to develop the theatrical and other talents in the ranks of the A.E.F. rather than to import professional entertainers from the States, although a considerable number of the latter are already on the way over.

2,000,000 LETTERS WRITTEN BY ARMY TO ITS FIRST C.O.'S

Postal Figures Show Entire A.E.F. Got Busy On Dad's Day

CHRISTMAS DELIVERY SURE

Thousands of Messages Penned by Soldiers to the Fathers of Their Fallen Buddies

Far and away the greatest shipment of mail ever sent by an Army overseas to its home country, far and away the greatest consignment of mail from Americans abroad to the United States, far and away the greatest concentrated letter writing bonanza in history—such is the history of Father's Letter Day as celebrated by the A.E.F. on November 24, just 13 days after the signing of the armistice.

From the advanced posts of the Army of Occupation "way down to the lumbering camps near the Franco-Spanish border, from the aviation centers in the north of Scotland—about the latitude of Labrador—down to the Riviera and well into boot-shaped Italy, the day was marked by a scurrying of pens and heads, with the result that the home-going mail from the A.E.F. counted, coming in the shipment of December 2, which was even then full of Dad's Christmas Letters, to the total of 8,632,500 pieces and fully 2,000,000 out of that 8,632,500 carried in the upper right hand corner of the envelope this legend: FATHER'S XMAS LETTER.

Entire Army Wrote

The way it works out is this: The homebound mail for the week prior to the one in which the Father's Letters were dispatched comprised 6,381,540 pieces. The homebound mail were sent Statesward comprised 2,251,200 pieces, 8,632,500 pieces, sent off in three shipments on November 26 and 27 and December 2. That makes an increase for the Father's Letter week of 2,351,260 pieces of mail.

Granting that a quarter of a million of these letters were not collected and dressed to the old man, or to somebody else's old man, but just written because after having written the old man, we remembered other members of the family—in other words, that writing seemed so interesting, that we completed for the time being, the writing habit, we still have 2,000,000 letters to the Dads of the A.E.F., and that 251,260 knocked off is a good, liberal knockoff. At any rate, the postal authorities are sure that at least 2,000,000 Father's Letters went off which means that everybody in the A.E.F. who could write or dictate did so.

The steamship Chicago which sailed for God's Country, where the old man lives, on November 26, carried the majority of the 4,794,900 letters sorted on the 24th, 25th and 26th by the Postal Service in La Lorraine, and when the last truck left the terminal late in the afternoon of November 27 to catch the fast steamship Tennessees, every Dad's Letter received up to that time was headed for the old man's front porch in the States.

Three Ships Carry Letters

The third shipment, that of December 2, saw 3,837,900 more letters go out, many tens of thousands carrying the magic formula, insuring special delivery service, in the upper right hand corner. But the magic isn't over yet—not by half as the gear down at Nantes and St. Nazaire and Rouen will be the first to tell you. Just to prove that it isn't, look what Rouen did. Rouen was eighth out of the nine ports last week; this week, for the week's totals, it leads the bunch.

Here's the way they line up according to the official figures for the fourth week of the big drive, with the figures for the four weeks together in the second column:

Table with 4 columns: Port, 4th Wk., For 4 Wks., and 5th Wk. (implied). Rows include Rouen, Nantes, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux, La Pallice, Le Havre, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Nantes, St. Nazaire.

All Delivered by Christmas

The Chicago, which left Bordeaux on November 26 with the advance guard of the old man's letters, used to make the trip in from 10 to 12 days, but with a submarine mine removed the passage was cut to 8 days. But should it do it in eight or nine days? The Tennessees, which followed close on the Chicago's heels the day after, is rated as a fast boat and should be able to negotiate the distance in about the same time, probably in less. It is certain that the contents of all three boats will reach the New York post office on or about December 10, and the Postmaster General of the United States has promised that every letter marked as belonging peculiarly to Dad, or to the Dad of a fallen comrade, or to the person who takes the place of a fallen comrade, will be given special attention and rushed to the limit to insure its being placed to the family tree on Christmas Eve.

When THE STARS AND STRIPES suggested writing to the old gentleman in time for Christmas, it was informed by the postal authorities that if the scheme was taken up, the A.E.F. would probably be the first to ship mail in time for Christmas, and that it would be carried, could properly be christened "Dad's Christmas Victory Letter Ship."

Censors Beaten Once More

Owing to the fortuitous departure of La Lorraine on December 2, all doubts about the removal of the A.E.F. from the hands of those unfortunate whose inconsiderate company censors held up their letters pending the receipt of the order abrogating, in view of the armistice, the hitherto existing rules of A.E.F. letter-writing. Those censors did not know.

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S. O. S. TURNS IN 418,000 FRANCS FOR ADOPTION OF 836 ORPHANS



MOTHER OF THE WAR ORPHANS

This is Miss (or, since we're in France, Mlle.) Marie Perrin, head of THE STARS AND STRIPES Bureau of the American Red Cross, which is the official name of the committee that handles the A.E.F.'s French war orphan family. The family now numbers 2,646.

Miss Perrin determines what is best for all of them, or, at any rate, her committee does, and they, or their guardians, come to her for advice about domestic and other matters and for money.

Miss Perrin is French by birth and American by adoption and was a member of the Faculty of the Ethical Culture School in New York City until the war started, when she returned to France for relief work.

She now has the distinction of being the mother of the largest personally conducted family in the world.

BREST IS LEADER AT HALF WAY MARK IN RACE TO BERLIN

Rouen, However, Jumps From 8th to 1st in Figures for Week Past

MISS WILSON BOOSTS DRIVE

President's Daughter Tells Bordeaux Gang How Home Folks Root for S.O.S.

Half-mile post on the Race to Berlin—four weeks' freight tossing concluded, four more to go. Here they come down the stretch, in the following order:

Table with 4 columns: Port, 4th Wk., For 4 Wks., and 5th Wk. (implied). Rows include Rouen, Nantes, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux, La Pallice, Le Havre, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Nantes, St. Nazaire.

Downhearted? No!

Though the dock gang at Brest had hoped to make it three straight "topping" weeks, having led the week lists twice in succession, they are not downhearted—NO! Haven't they got the premier position in the contest thus far? YES! You ought to have heard them yell when the news came through. Yes, and they'll yell again when President Wilson, aboard the George Washington, comes steaming through their little old port on Tuesday next, and tell him right out and how Brest stands. The noise they're saving up for that day will make Mr. Wilson think of certain autumn days in 1912 and 1916 to find anything equalling it in volume and vigor.

New A.E.F. Record

Brest's transportation heads, Lieutenant Colonel Stern and Major O'Neill, think they can finish the race next week, if they are given enough ships, but our correspondent has projected to add whether or not they stated, when interviewed, that they were willing to back up that assertion with money. It would be a good bet to take, at that, for Brest is going to have a busy time next week, with the President and Mr. Lloyd George and everybody disembarking there. And "humans" like the President and the Premier, don't come as tonnage unloaded. Now if it were only anything equalling it in volume and vigor.

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THIRD YANK ARMY NOW WELL ON WAY TO COBLENCE TOWN

Treves, Entered Monday, Yields Up 14 American Wounded

"SMOKE" SHOWER FOLLOWS

Victorious Troops Received Silently by Populace—C-in-C. Issues Proclamation

Yank troops composing the American Army of Occupation are now firmly implanted on the soil of Germany.

The Third American Army, keeping abreast of the French on its right and the English on its left, crossed the Luxembourg frontier on Sunday and penetrated into the ex-Kaiser's former empire. They are now half way to Coblenz, the city on the Rhine designated for American occupation until peace is finally signed and execution ordered.

The Third Army started its 100-kilometer hike from Luxembourg to the Rhine before sun-up on Sunday. On Monday it entered Treves, where 14 American wounded were liberated.

The reception of the Americans has been about the same as that accorded the French in the Rhine region. The German populace has met the victorious Allied armies in silence and submission, and so far as the American zone is concerned, there has been no untoward act against the troops.

The happiest people in Treves on the Army's way were the 14 Yanks who limped wounded in the Red Cross Hospital on the edge of the town. Four officers and ten enlisted men, they had been carried there one by one during the summer and fall from the battlefields of France, gradually to form in one wing of the old barracks a little American colony of hope and pain.

It had been out of the question to move them and many German wounded under the care of a competent staff of German doctors and nurses, who treated them well and served their wounds with expert hands. Quite two weeks ahead of our troops came two American surgeons to look to their welfare, and by Monday American surgeons were in charge of their cases.

All afternoon their cots were surrounded with visitors. To the casual observer, those fourteen Americans appeared to have suddenly acquired half the cigarette supply of the Third American Army, and certainly they had the first copies of last week's STARS AND STRIPES to reach Germany.

One of the fourteen was a private who had been crippled by machine gun fire as long ago as last July at Chateau-Thierry, when the fear of the German host still lay like a shadow across the world. He had been bandaged, fêted and transported through an endless chain of field hospitals and finally moved by train to Germany. Even in his wildest dreams that hot August night when they carried him from the station at Treves to the hospital across the way, he could not have hoped that before

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Biggest Lump Contribution in History of A.E.F.'s Giving

EVERY A.R.M. REPRESENTED

Lusty Fortune Will Be Used to Care for Children of France's Redeemed Areas

ARMY NOW PARRAINS TO 2,646

140 Boys and Girls Taken Outside the S.O.S., Making 976 the Grand Total for Star Week

Surpassing several times over the biggest previous donation, the record contribution to THE STARS AND STRIPES Christmas Gift War Orphan Fund came in this week. It was from the S.O.S.

It was the fund which the S.O.S. in a campaign lasting only a few weeks and conducted more or less quietly under the leadership of M. S.O.S., so far as the rest of the Army was concerned, raised during the busiest period in its history.

It was gathered at the base ports between the launching and landing of bulging nets of freight, on the lines of communication between the passage of crowded trains, in the construction camps, at the air centers, at the mess tables in the barracks, at entertainments, in the offices, where everybody from the orderly to the general was figuring out the details of moving an Army two ways at once.

Trunkful of Francs

The money came from all the reaches of central and southern France, from the hold units working up on the edge of the battle zone to the furthest reaches of the French forests where the news has not penetrated to the hardy American woodsman yet that the armistice is signed. It came in to the Christmas Gift War Orphan Fund manager at Tours in checks, in copper, in paper money in all of the departments of France. Some of it was new and crisp—fresh from the paymaster. Some of it was finger-stained, tattered and crumpled worn.

It filled a box bigger than a traveling salesman's trunk, and when it was counted it was found there were 418,000 francs, enough to provide for the support of 836 down-on-their-luck youngsters, enough to play a big and important part in ameliorating the acute suffering in the sections of France recently freed from the grip of the German in departing, took most of the food, and a lot of other things they could carry.

The big contribution came with the understanding that it would be used for the children of those redeemed areas; with the exception of certain contributions from individuals and individuals which specified otherwise.

Big Order for Red Cross

The Red Cross committee already is at work selecting and listing the children who are to join the A.E.F. family. They will complete their work, allot the children, and begin the expenditure of the fund, under the supervision of the Red Cross, the postal department, the railroads and the French civil government is again functioning. This will be a matter of weeks only.

Among the various services and organizations represented in the S.O.S. contribution are:

The Transportation Corps, the Medical Corps, including base hospitals and ambulance companies; the Ordnance Department, the Chemical Warfare Service, Provost Marshals and Military Police, the offices in the District of Paris, the General Purchasing Agent, Depot Divisions, the General Staff, the Adjutant General's Department, Base Section staffs, the Air Service, casual camps and depots, Division of Light Railways and Loads, the Engineers, the War Risk Insurance Section, the Motor Transport Corps, the Signal Corps, the Quartermaster Corps, the Judge Advocate's Department, the Requisitions and Claims Department, the Inspector General's Department, the Chief Surgeon's Office, the Chief Engineer's Office, and the Signal Corps, including the telephone operators.

With the contribution came this statement:

The S.O.S. contribution to THE STARS AND STRIPES Christmas Gift Orphan Fund is made as one big contribution from the Service of Supply, every branch of the service being represented. The request, names of individual contributors and organizations are not printed, as has been the custom of THE STARS AND STRIPES since its inception. The names of the contributors, although all will be provided with photographs and histories of children cared for by their contributions. Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, commander-in-chief, S.O.S., commenting on this departure, said that the Service of Supply has worked together as a unit to maintain, feed, clothe and supply the forces at the front and as such has shared in their successes, and now the S.O.S. is doing its bit to make life pleasant for a thousand French children in the same spirit. The success of the S.O.S. said Harbord, has been not by working as individuals or as organizations, but by its work as part of the great whole. The spirit of unity is strong in the S.O.S., and it is this spirit that will see that the spirit of self-advertising does not exist among its members. Every man's shoulder is at the wheel, regardless of whether he be commander or steward, and the question is not whether he be Motor Transport or Medical Corps, railroad engineer, doughboy or horse soldier when it comes to tackling the hundreds of thousands of French children of the S.O.S. are more localized in France than are the others of the A.E.F., and many of them are already identified with the local life and local charities in their several stations. The implicit injunction of not allowing the right hand to know what the left hand does, and the fact that one man's ten francs may mean more to one child than another's hundred francs, the S.O.S. orphan contributions being made as a lump sum, invidious comparisons by showing the different sums contributed by organizations and individuals are being avoided. The mite of the widow was as honored by the Savior of mankind as the contributions of a Croesus or a Rockefeller, General Harbord concluded.

S.O.S. Tops 1,000 Orphans

As a matter of fact, the figure of 836 does not cover the contribution of the S.O.S. in its entirety in its campaign;

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