

FLOOD OF SALVAGE HITS A.E.F. DEPOTS AS FIGHTING ENDS

**Junk of Battlefield Being
Turned into Dollars for
Uncle Sam**

BOOTS RENOVATED, 59 CTS.

**Personnel at Tours Plant Is 6,166,
Including 4,404 Women and
981 Enlisted Men**

Down at Tours they didn't expect the regular after-armistice deluge of salvage until long after the first of the year. But Yanks seem to be as good as polishing up as they are at fighting, and that is why the American Salvage Depot is one of the busiest spots in the A.E.F. right now.

Every man and woman is working at top speed, every machine at full blast, and it is estimated that it will be months before the plant has transformed all the old junk of the battlefields into dollars and cents on the right side of Uncle Sam's ledger.

The following figures indicate the pronounced growth of the salvage output within the past few months, not only at Tours, but all over the S.O.S.:

In August the total value of salvage materials amounted to \$3,000,000, while in October there was restored to service more than \$5,000,000 worth of clothing, shoes, rubber goods, canvas, webbing materials and metals. In addition to this, there was salvaged from the battlefields and put back immediately into use or sent to depots for reissue \$4,000,000 worth of property. The item of ammunition alone involved \$4,000,000, which makes a grand total for October of more than \$16,000,000—over half a million dollars daily.

The grand A.E.F. total for November, when completed, ought to exceed October's by a good round margin, for the signatures on the armistice were scarcely dry before the salvage crews up the line blew the lid clear off and flooded the salvage depots to such a degree that an embargo on cars had to be ordered.

November Figures for Tours

The November figures for Tours are in and are even more remarkable: Clothing amounted to \$10,939,226.01; metal, \$59,016.57; canvas and webbing, \$1,551,134.46; leather and harness, \$1,246,420.34; shoes, \$3,566,259.92; and rubber goods (boots, arctics, raincoats, etc.), \$1,200,225.22.

Improved methods and new equipment, much of it devised on the spot, are no longer a novelty at Tours. Take the rubber goods department, for instance. There was the day back home, not so very long ago, when a boot that was worn through the heel, sole, or had an L tear in it was reckoned as scrap.

The rubber goods department at Tours means of cold cement, but cold cement is unsatisfactory, especially when the fabric in the sole is gone. So it was decided to try vulcanization on a broad scale. A Paris chemist was consulted to save time, for the compound was known, and experiments brought forth the formula desired. And when the boots come out of the plant, with the fabric rebuilt and with brand-new rubber heels and soles, they are just as good as the day they came out of the factory new.

There is also in the boot department an ingenious drying device. The boots were dried by being suspended upside down over a fire, but this was unsatisfactory, because it drove the moisture further into the lining rather than drying it up. A hollow peg was devised with a form at the top over which the boot was fitted. Hot air then was forced up through the peg, forming a circulation and thoroughly drying the inside.

It has been estimated that it only costs 59 cents now to renovate a pair of boots.

Better Than New Article

Shelter halves also got thorough treatment, and so do raincoats, while it is the proud boast of this department that when a Lyster bag goes out of the salvage depot it is in much better shape, in many cases, than when it entered the Government service. Its holes and tears are basted and pasted and cemented and otherwise solidly sealed, and it is then given a generous quantity of cement lining to make it thoroughly waterproof.

The clothing department is another part of the salvage depot at Tours which is increasing steadily in production, and there is a chart hanging on the walls of the office which shows that this increased production is actually being attained with a smaller percentage of personnel than was on hand last summer.

How is it done? Partly by arranging the tables so that the articles will not have to be handled so frequently; partly by the introduction of the piece-work system; partly by putting the women into uniforms; partly by increasing the number of overseers; partly by putting the steadiest and most intelligent operators on the power machines; and partly by lowering the tables at which the women sat. This not only obviated constant reaching, but enabled the forewomen to ascertain just how much work was being carried out.

More Work in Afternoon

Incidentally, an hourly record is kept on the number of garments turned out, and this shows that more work is done in the afternoon than in the morning. The record was set late in November, when the women repaired, sized, classified and packed 2,370 pieces between 3 and 4 p. m.

Right now the canvas and webbing department is swamped. Every soldier is provided with a haversack, a cartridge belt and a canteen cover, so that there are unlimited numbers of these, not to mention leggings, medical packs and belts.

In this department it is especially noticeable that salvaged articles go through several cycles of renovation. They go out, stay a few months, and then back they come—and out they go. Rags from clothing, scraps of old shoes and leather dust from the shoe department, scraps of rubber and rubber coat material, pieces of leather from the harness branch, and pieces of canvas from the canvas branch are sold in large lots to the highest bidder. The woolen clothing rags are shredded and the product used over again for making cloth. Cotton rags which are too poor for other uses are torn and used in paper making.

The Tours salvage depot in November had a personnel of 26 officers, 981 enlisted men, 757 male civilians and 4,404 female civilians, a total of 6,166.

HENRY'S PAL TO HENRY

SHOWING THAT THE HELMET MARKET THESE DAYS
AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE



I offered to trade him 14 minnewefers and a steamroller

Germany, Dec. 21, 1918. Regates Heindrick. Well Henry I guess you ain't missing much because your outfit didn't get no chance to come along into Germany. That time we marched them 31 kilometers in 14 hours ain't got nothing on this trip.

That's all we do Henry is hike and he balled out by second looks etc. for not having our coat buttoned or something. Only we get to stop in a German town on a white like tonite and give the Proosians the once over. We are in now what the Boches call Trier and what is on the map Treves.

Well Henry Buck and me slipped off tonite after treat and went up town. But we didn't have much fun because we are both destitute. We spent all the pennings we had for a shave and Buck nearly got his throat cut by the barber.

Buck had a big hand grenade in his pocket so if somebody started something he could defend us and while the barber was shaving him Bucks hand grenade dropped out of his lip pocket on the floor and the barber kind of flinched when he seen it and cut a awful nick in Bucks windpipe. But of course he didn't mean to do it.

Well Henry I guess the people here kind of think a lot of us all rite all though they don't show it much. They are awful after American souvenirs.

This p.m. after we got shaved me and Buck was standing on the sidewalk up town and Buck pulls out his handkerchief to blow his nose with and he dropped something else out of his pocket which was only a little piece of soap and there was about a dozen people tried to get ahold of it all at once.

Speaking of souvenirs Henry there is a German soldier here who has got a Prussian general's spiked helmet which he wants to sell for only 20 marks which is zwanzig mark when you kind of in-late it like a German. It is sure cheap. I all ready got some other spiked helmets which I got back at the next town for only 2 marks but I am going to have this general's helmet if I have to kill the co. clerk.

Well Henry so long for this time and maybe I will write tomorrow if I get the helmet. But I guess they ain't much chance of that when you are destitute.

So long,
S. T. B.

Germany, Dec. 22, 1918.

Dear Henry. Well I ain't got the helmet yet but I am going to pretty soon if the mess sergeant keeps his promise to loan me the 20 marks like he said he would.

Of course since the pay master got bumped off that time like everybody says he did there ain't much chance of me paying him back very soon but that ain't worrying me none Henry if I can just get this helmet before some other gink does.

It is just like the one the kisser hisself wears and is just as good to I bet. The bird who owns it was around to see me again this a.m. I hope we don't leave for Coblenz tomorrow like we are supposed to do unless I get this helmet. I will have it tomorrow maybe Henry.

From your pal,
S. T. B.

Germany, Dec. 23, 1918.

Friend Henry. Well Henry we ain't going till tomorrow but I guess I won't have that helmet. This a.m. I hit up the mess sergt. for the 20 and he gave it to me and I got off after mess and went down to the barracks where this German is at and before I got there I met the mess sergt. hisself coming up the street with this fancy helmet in his hand and I was pretty festy about it because I had been planning on it rite along.

Well Henry he didn't buy it at all. He traded for it to this German for only one little cake of soap with which I used to wash the pans with this a.m. when I was on K.P. Can you beat that Henry?

I guess it wasn't because them people wanted Bucks soap he dropped for a souvenir but because like the mess sergt. told me there ain't no soap in Germany because they had to use it all with which to make shells with or something.

If I had of knowed that Henry I would of had enough soap stored up to buy a store with or something etc. because if one piece of soap like that is worth 20 marks a hole case would be worth a lot.

Well I offered to trade him 14 minnewefers and a steam roller which I traded a Boche out of with only a kan of tobacco and which he could use all rite to haul his stove around with etc. but he wouldn't do it and went off laughing like he was sick.

The steam roller is setting out by our co. hrs. and if he wants to use it for anything he will never get it.

Well Henry I am going over and see how much soap I can find and I will write to you later.

Your pal,
S. T. B.

Germany, Dec. 23, 1918.

Pal Henry. Well Henry I guess I am going to be in bad with a certain sekund loot that has just come to our co. if he finds out what went with his soap.

This morning I went over to the kitchen to see if I could nstle a couple of bars of soap and I met the old Top himself coming out of the kitchen with some soap which was all there was. And he said if I said anything he would tend to me. Of course Henry you know what that means all rite. I know he would all rite because he has done it before. So of course I ain't going to say anything.

But the Top is a pretty good skout at that because he says for me to kind of sneak around the new loot billet and see if he had any soap. Well Henry I sneaked around all rite and I found a

HOMESICKNESS IS NOT RHEUMATISM

So Don't Try to Make the
Army Doctor Believe
It Is

Flat feet that weathered months and months of war with the A.E.F. suddenly became an acute infirmity when the armistice was signed. Soldiers who had been suffering from wartime colds developed unbearable pains in the chest shortly after firing ceased along the front. Rheumatic pains began to twinge the joints of buck privates about the same time, but medical officers handling sick call usually found that the rheumatism, flat feet or suspected tuberculosis had complications of homesickness or "pressing business" responsibilities back in the States.

Baffling Spells of Dizziness

Sympathetic but professionally skeptical medical officers confronted by daily-increasing parades of the near-halt have been overworking stethoscopes in running down symptoms. Elusive pains and baffling spells of dizziness have been put under the "third degree" by conscientious examiners, who have been listening to a series of recitals of symptoms that would bring joy to the man who

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writes the testimonials for the "advertising medical profession" back in the States.

"The hard part about it all is that we want to be strictly fair to every man," said one medical officer in a headquarters town. "The percentage of men who are really trying to work us perhaps is small, but in many cases we find that these men have been in France relatively a short time. We think that to allow them to return to the States on a comparatively trivial ailment is unfair to the great majority of men who have been in France for long periods and are still carrying on uncomplainingly. It's the same principle of a man shoving his way into the head of a mess line instead of waiting his turn."

TO BALANCE SERVICE TERMS

A bulletin issued by the Transportation Department, Hq. S.O.S., states that officers of this department, among whom are many of the most prominent railroad executives in the United States, will be relieved from duty in France under a policy that will balance the length of service in France, the character of the service and the relative importance of the officer's war duties and the need for his services in civil life.

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The AutoStrop Razor

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