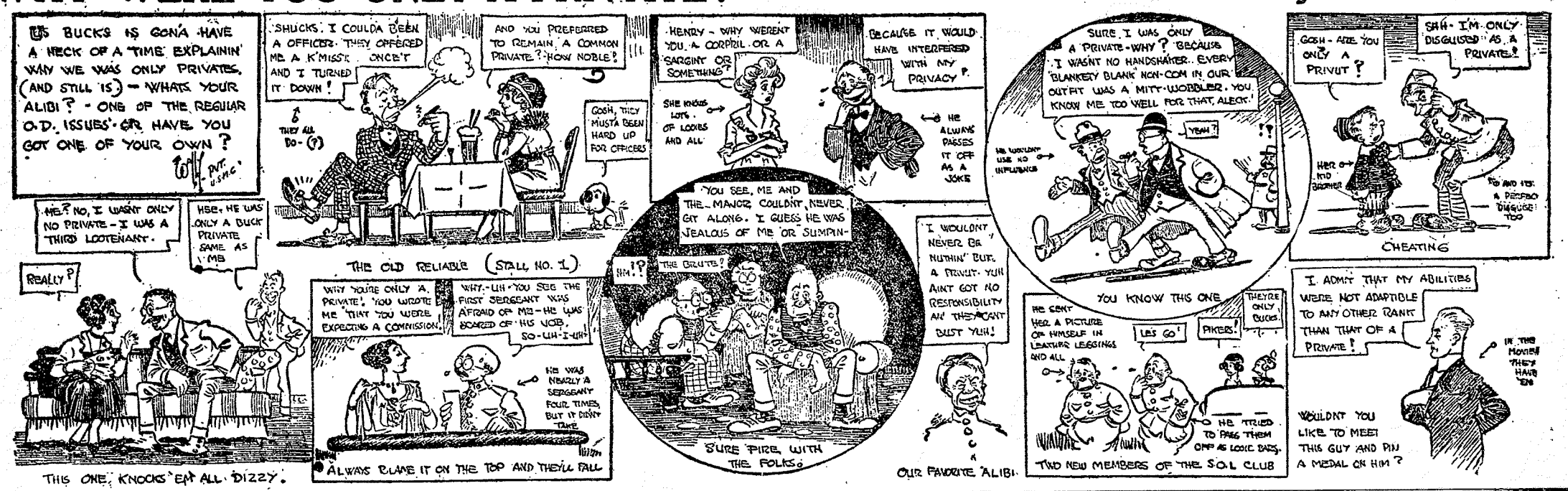
WHY WERE YOU ONLY A PRIVATE? —By WALLGREN



SALVAGE SAVES ARMY $62,932,735 IN YEAR'S WORK

"Cootie Soap" Invention Starts 1919 Program of Thrift

PERSONNEL OVER 11,000

91 Per Cent of All Articles Received Have Been Recovered On—Rest for Patches

The Salvage Service of the A.E.F. was a year old the 16th of last month. It claims to have saved the Army $62,932,734.86 and it says the work has just begun.

Right off the reel it has commenced its second year with the announcement that its kitchen economics branch has solved the cootie problem. This versatile organization is now making "Cootie Soap," one application of which is sufficient to obliterate forever the whole cootie family and all their eggs. Forty thousand pounds of this soap has already been made. Most of it has been sent to Le Mans, where it is said to be working effectively.

The directions for making the soap are very simple. They were proposed by Col. D. C. Howard of the Medical Corps. "Boil one part of soap chips in four parts of water and add two parts of kerosene oil or four parts of gasoline. This jellies when cold."

So the Salvage Department begins its second year. In saving nearly $63,000,000, the service has recovered on 91 per cent of all articles received, the remaining 9 per cent being used as raw material in patching, mending and renovation. The cost of operating the service as compared with the value of its output has been 11 per cent. This includes all costs of materials, rentals, employees' salaries, and, in fact, all expenses except depreciation on machinery.

Where the Plants Are

The combined floor space of the depots, shops and laundries of the Salvage Department is now 902,144 square feet, of which 177,425 is owned by the United States government and the balance leased. There are salvage depots at Bordeaux, Lyons, Nantes, St. Nazaire and St. Pierre des Corps. There are salvage shops at Angers, Chaumont, Le Mans, Paris, St. Aignan, Tours, Bazoilles, Brest, Nancy, Savernay, Rochefort, Marseilles, Gievres, Vittel, Winchester (England) and Coblenz (Germany).

The total personnel of the service exceeds 11,000, and in addition there have been times when it has employed a variable field force of from 2,000 to 12,000 enlisted men. These troops acting with the service were largely utilized in salvaging operations in front line areas during and after heavy offensives. The accumulated results of their labors were placed in advance dumps contiguous to railheads or truck line heads.

To illustrate the importance of these field operations to avoid deterioration of equipment, it was noted that out of $3,100,000 worth of salvaged materials from one battle, 87 per cent of the Ordnance and 47 per cent of the Quartermaster property recovered was suitable for re-issue and did not have to be sent to salvage shops and depots for renovation and repair.

The Salvage Service reached the climax of its career in the last month of its first year. The total value of articles repaired last December was $9,436,839.14. During that month alone there were repaired and prepared for reissue 57,996 campaign hats, 392,168 pairs of shoes, 101,032 rubber articles, 439,320 items of canvas and webbing, 373,321 metal articles and 2,185,970 pieces of clothing—a grand total of 3,549,807 articles repaired.

Adding to these figures the number of articles manufactured from the 9 per cent discard during the month, there were 4,255,588 separate pieces turned out by the department. The laundries of the Salvage Service during this same month took care of 7,811,566 separate pieces, which does not include material handled by the mobile field laundries and field sterilizers.

The Late Campaign Hat

The cost of repairing a pair of shoes, not including leather and nails, has been 24 cents. A uniform, coat and breeches, costing $16.11, is repaired for 90 cents, including labor, materials and overhead expenses. A pair of hip rubber boots costing $6.15 can be effectively renewed for 69 cents. It costs 18½ cents to doctor up the old campaign hat.

The operation of shops and depots naturally has entailed the accumulation of certain amounts of by-product material and scrap. To enable front line troops to have more liberty of action, it will be remembered that the overcoats were ordered shortened. From these clippings, such articles as overseas caps and uppers for slippers were manufactured. The soles of these slippers were made of old campaign hats and canvas from old type canvas leggings. The overcoat clippings were also used in the making of thousands of insignia and brassards.

Large size tin cans have been effectually employed in lining remount stables. Leather scraps have been used in smelting furnaces where an even and high heat was demanded. From scraps have been manufactured grave registration tags, engine curtains, effects bags, shipping bags and hundreds of other articles. The engineers have been glad to get metal scraps, the cotton rags have been sold to paper manufacturers, and the woolen ones have been taken off the A.E.F.'s hands by the British.

The American Army has 47,000 German prisoners of war in France. They have been completely clothed, furnished with O.D. blankets, mess kits and other equipment by the Salvage Department. This equipment is estimated as worth $60 a man, making this item alone amount to a saving of $2,820,000 to the Government.

Use for Dead Horses

The kitchen economics branch of the Salvage Service began to function in May, 1918. Vast quantities of condemned flour, grains and subsistence stores have been handled by this service and largely restored to use. Over 90 per cent of all flour received has, by the sifting processes, been restored to condition for re-issue. Dead horses have been inoculated with a special serum to prevent decay and shipped to French buyers. Grease saved from kitchens has been converted into dubbin and soap. Since its inception this department alone has made recoveries value at $474,515.12 up to and including the month of December.

The following figures give the total recoveries for the year 1918 by the department:

Value Output, Depot and Shops	$17,018,574.01
Field Recoveries	15,100,000.00
Kitchen Economics Recoveries	474,515.12
Waste Sales	39,480.23
Rubber Salvaged, 1,591,565 lbs.	159,156.50
Wool Cloth Shipped to British	71,084.60
Lumber Salvaged, 1,717,940 board feet	69,025.00
Total	$62,932,734.86

BASE PORTS HAVE THEIR FUN BETWEEN SHIPS

Eighteen months at the embarkation docks at Saint Nazaire, 15 of which were spent unloading troops and the last three in reloading troops, is the record of a sergeant in the Coast Artillery Corps, who set foot in France as one of the first 50,000. He knows everything, from the tonnage of the Manchuria to the location of the bathroom aboard a tramp steamer. He can tell you when such and such a boat should arrive, when she left, how many troops were aboard and how many second lieutenants left cigars and other luggage on the pier in their eagerness to get aboard.

"Isn't it tough to see so many fellows going home!" he was asked.

"No," he replied, and added, "It was tougher hearing some guy tell about a dance he attended in Syracuse just before he left the States. That's my home, Syracuse."

The private who holds down the chair of Chief Informant in the bureau devoted to directing strangers of the A.E.F. who come into headquarters at Brest has some mighty trying times. But he is a diplomat and can handle a colonel as easily as a second lieutenant, and he can direct officers to every part of the town with such a smooth manner that they are never peeved because there isn't motor transportation.

But when the colored doughboy came into the information desk the other day and asked, "Boss, can you show me the way to the States?" this private felt like resigning his job. The colored soldier was directed to the States, but via the embarkation camp.

A State of Washington casual in Blois has elected himself the original S.O.L. of the A.E.F. He had been scrambling about the country so much lately, after the manner of casuals, that it was only the other day that his Christmas package caught up with him. Naturally, he was much elated.

"It's goin' to be somethin' good, guys," he proclaimed. "The folks wrote me that they were sendin' me somethin' that would remind me of the Old Home State—not just ordinary junk you could buy anywhere."

He opened the package.

It contained two cans of salmon.

The Y.M.C.A. dormitory at Brest is always crowded, although occupation of a bed there overnight requires that the candidate show orders designing him to stop "in transient" at Brest, and he must give his serial number, rank and organization. It is very quiet in the dormitories—has been every night, in fact, until the military police at 5:30 a.m. one morning asked to see the passes of all sleepers.

"Sure," explained one soldier, who remained in bed, "just reach for my blouse over there and in the right upper pocket you'll find my orders." Then he went off to sleep.

Days are dull for soldiers at Brest, but Sunday, it seems, is the dullest of days. Troops waiting their turn to walk up the old gangplanks and start for the States find it difficult to divert their minds from that all absorbing question, "When do we leave?"

Officers have the same difficult time. Like soldiers, cafes are out of bounds for them, and theaters and motion pictures are closed to all wearers of O.D. So ingenious soldiers have devised various methods of passing the hours in Brest.

Last Sunday about 12 officers approached a Y.M.C.A. secretary and diplomatically asked if there were any boxing gloves lying around. Finally two sets were found, and the officers, headed by the Y.M.C.A. man—and there were captains, lieutenants and a chaplain in the crowd—started for a large room which isn't very often occupied.

Then followed several corking bouts. All were strictly informal. Sam Browne belts were peeled off; blouses, the shoulders of which were adorned with bars or crosses, were flung to the expectant seconds, and then the first go was staged. There weren't any rounds, the principals fighting until they were winded. Then the seconds sprang out to the center of the floor, donned the gloves and went to it for a spell.

It is reported that no blood oozed from any noses and no blacked eyes were decorated with raw beef, but one of the fighters maintained that the bouts never did lack pep or punch.

All soldiers stationed in Base Section No. 5, which includes the embarkation camps in and around Brest, are required to do squads east for at least "one-half day a week." Thus, Engineers who usually are writing ordres des transports or arranging misplaced boxcars, as well as the enlisted personnel working in connection with the activities of headquarters, can now be seen doing regular doughboy **stunts**.

A white battalion sergeant major was standing in the lobby at headquarters at Brest several days ago when a colored first lieutenant of Infantry entered.

"Good morning, Mr. James," the lieutenant addressed the non-com, "do you remember me?" The enlisted man remembered him, for the lieutenant had worked for his father before he had been selected for military service.

"Are you going back to work for us?" the sergeant major asked. "If I can't stay in the Army," was the reply of the lieutenant.

Down in a certain base headquarters town there is a French soldier who is very proud of the ease with which he handles the English language. But when he started talking to an American, the latter usually rubs his eyes and takes a second look at the Frenchman's uniform. The poilu has a cockney accent, and his words and phrases all are of the London dialect.

"I learned English in a German prison camp from a British sergeant," the poilu explains.

The Red Cross canteen near the railroad station at St. Nazaire is always crowded. Majors as well as chauffeurs stand in line there for sandwiches, coffee and doughnuts. There are good-looking girls working there, and at certain times there is an unusually good-looking girl there.

The other morning the line was reaching past the door and doughnuts were being consumed faster than the French cooks could hole them and bake them. Suddenly a lieutenant and captain appeared at the head of the line. This especially good-looking girl shut off the coffee faucet, looked at the officers and enquired:

"When did you get here?"

"We just got into this town and we want some doughnuts, please."

"There's the end of the line over by the door," the Red Cross worker commented as she turned on the old coffee faucet again.

Sam had been a pretty sick stevedore, but he had been cheerful and was given extra attention at the hospital near Bordeaux. The nurse was especially insistent that Sam clean his teeth regularly and brought him tooth powder, brush and water before breakfast every morning. One day about noon Sam asked for his tooth powder. The nurse scolded and asked him if he had not cleaned his teeth in the morning.

"Yas'm," replied Sam, "but I jes wants my tooth powder."

The nurse brought the powder, water and brush.

"I don't want the brush, Miss," Sam expostulated. "I'se jes goin' to powder 'em."

COULDN'T STUMP HIM

He was a three-day-leave man having his first sight of Paris and had dropped into the Y.M.C.A. canteen for something to eat. There's a waiting line at the egg counter there, and every man gets a numbered check to show just where he stands in the list. But he didn't know that.

"Thirty-seven—fried," called one of the laddies ahead of him in the line.

"Thirty-eight—fried," came the next.

"Thirty-nine—fried."

He drew a long breath.

"I dunno whether I can do it or not," he called. "But no Paris Yank is goin' to get ahead of me. You can make mine 40—fried."

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