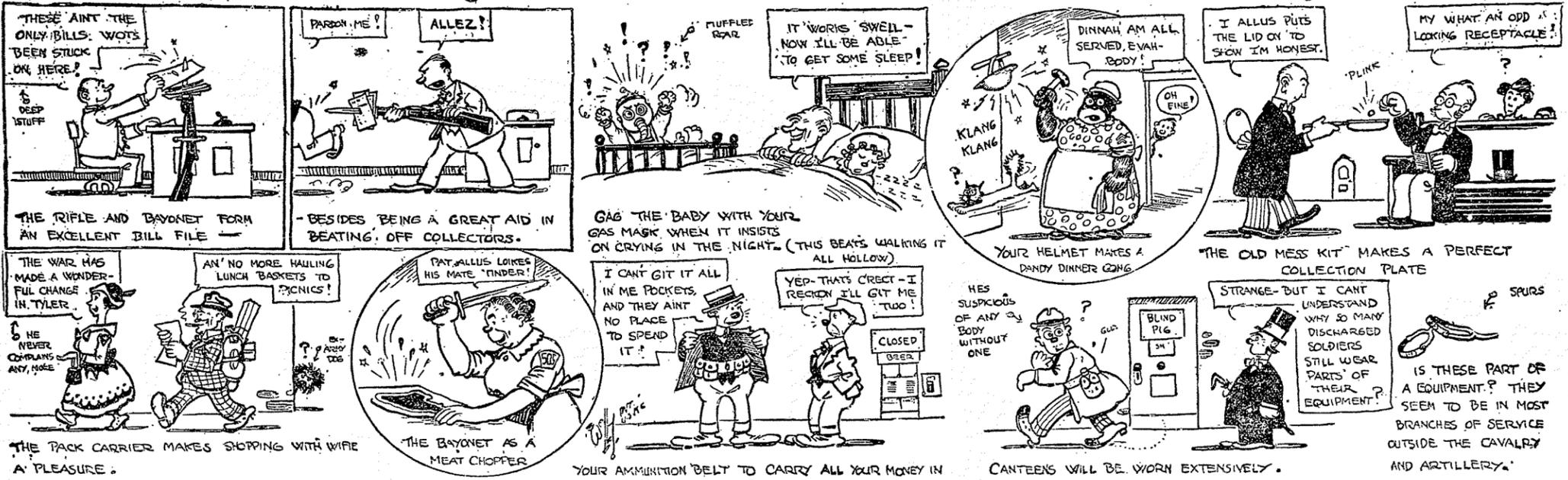


HANG ON TO YOUR EQUIPMENT

—By WALLGREN



VENDEE PORTS ARE YANKLESS ALREADY

La Rochelle and La Pallice Know Only Strays and M.P.'s

ENGINEER SHOP CLOSES, TOO

Bordeaux Will Follow on July 10, Shutting Off Two of A.E.F.'s Main Supply Arteries

Quiet now reigns at La Rochelle and La Pallice, where for 20 months soldiers toiled in overalls day and night on the docks and in the holds of ships and on docks and shifting freight cars, so that the A.E.F. might never go hungry and that guns and munitions might never fail on the spreading firing lines.

The shops and docks and warehouses have been turned over to the French Government, and the Americans who worked in them have gone home. Business holds and thrived with activity. Where hundreds of men in O.D. and overalls swarmed through the narrow streets and squares of La Rochelle, there now walks a solitary M.P., patrolling a lonely beat.

Base Section No. 7, which includes La Rochelle and La Pallice, closed officially April 25 and the few remaining operations of cleaning up the base and the loading of material on ships has been taken over by Base Section No. 1, of which Bordeaux is the headquarters city.

Some A.E.F. Patriarchs In the camp at La Pallice there are still stationed one or two companies of Marines, one little Signal Corps detachment and some labor units. Among the Signal Corps men are several three-striper, who will be due for a fourth stripe in a few weeks. Venerable patriarchs of the A.E.F., these men were some of the first to come over, and to them fell the duty of stringing all telephone and telegraph lines from the barracks up to the various points on the front. Long before combat troops began to arrive. Their occupation now gone, these veterans, patiently waiting in the half forgotten barracks of La Pallice, are being selected, and became one of the main feeders of the big distribution point at Givres. Out at La Pallice, where deep water facilities for handling big ships were right at hand, the American Engineers were immediately set at work constructing docks and warehouses, and even before they were completed, thousands of tons of Quartermaster supplies and Ordnance equipment began to pour in without a single let up until the signing of the armistice.

S.O.S.'s Main Props Because of the lack of space and accommodations for large numbers of troops a few companies were landed at La Rochelle, most of the divisions landing at the northern ports. It has simply been one of the main props of the S.O.S., handling only food supplies, clothing and equipment.

But this is not all. La Rochelle is the French railroad terminal for trains running to Paris, and in consequence possesses large railroad yards and trackings. This fact was immediately taken advantage of by the Engineering Department of the Army, and the cars and locomotives were erected at once. As many as 25 freight cars per day have been turned out from these shops. As fast as the cars were assembled and the cars run down to the docks where they were loaded with supplies and rushed up to the front.

DATES FOR ALL YANKS Doubtful Thomases back home will have the doubts wiped off their faces in case they take exception to remarks of Yanks with respect to organization, length of service, and conduct in charge of the service. It's going to be put down in black and white on the discharge certificates, according to G.O. 53, G.H.Q. At the same time, some men who are the best placed to draw the long bow will have to pull in their horns if some other soldier quietly asks to see their certificates.

The designation of all organizations in which the soldier has served during his current enlistment, or since induction into the military service, with inclusive dates of service, will be noted on the reverse side of the certificate. If the soldier has served overseas there will also be shown the name of the country or countries in which he has served and the dates of departure from and return to the United States. In case of service in Siberia, and if departure for such service was from stations outside the continental limits of the United States, it will be so noted. When the records of soldiers discharged in Europe show they are citizens of the United States, the officers in charge of the European discharge camps will note the fact on the discharge certificates.

SHADES OF OLD MARCO POLO!

Ladies first: The column turns educational and the subject matter comes from no other place than that wild-west city of Boston, community of unerring and comprehensively intellectual pensmen. The "Battle of Tours" it grows bloodier and more thrilling as the column proceeds. From page 258, March number of "Telephone Topics," Boston, we have salvaged a page story with a prominently displayed photograph of Miss Emma Brousseau, one of the returned "switchboard soldiers," who has her dates mixed, or else they have been twisted and the map coordinates badly mounted by editorial bombardment. Miss Brousseau is the charter lady member of our organization, as such either she or, more likely, her interviewer is entitled to the hand embossed plaster cast of Baron Munchausen.

The photograph shows Miss Brousseau wearing two service chevrons for 12 months in France. So far, so good. But the article appears in the March number and states that she is just back from France, while this damaging statement occurs in the interview. "We sailed on April 1, 1918." Ten of 11 months is close enough for a full year, and possibly service chevrons were only sold in pairs at Tours! Those ladies, however, who have not known the terrors of that wonderful little town some distance east of Paris, will be interested to learn just how thrilling the "Battle of Tours" did become, for Miss Brousseau is quoted as saying: "Of course, the girls were in some danger, as they were required to get out of the number of occasions we were forced to get out of the town, and I was very nervous. The peculiar thing is that the principal objection the girls had to the idea of going to the front was that they had absolutely no fear, and as far as the French people were concerned, we were all treated with respect, made clean work at the hospital, and were given the best of care. The "All-American Sentinel" scored a great scoop in its edition of March 16, with a double photograph of Pvt. E. Stueve, two little scared Marines. The story is devoted chiefly to the corporal, who wears "the Croix de Guerre, the Legion of Honor Medal and four campaign ribbons." Not to mention the fourragere he is shown wearing in the picture. "Schwebke was cited on 11 occasions," says the "Sentinel."

Third Army Bathes at Noted Watering Place The Bad Neuenahr is having a record breaking season. Prettily lithographed pamphlets of the watering place on the banks of the Ahr, a tributary of the Rhine, lay stress on the "rapid growth" of the attendance from 200 persons in 1889 to 25,000 in 1912. Now the influx of guests is 350 daily. They are Yanks. It is very, very fashionable to frequent the Bad Neuenahr. The ultra-elite of Europe were wont to loiter in luxury there, their alibi being the healing waters of the all-healing waters of the Grosser Sprudel, the Willibrordus Sprudel and other Sprudels and Quelles. No children of liver complaints has seized the Yanks. The fact that Grosser Sprudel water contains .01500 per cent of potassium chloride means nothing in their young lives. They are there because the young Bad Neuenahr is a health resort, a leave center for the 4th Division, and for part of the Fourth Corps. The popular Kurhotel is used by U.S. Evacuation Hospital No. 25, so the nervous invalids are housed in a string of hotels, ranging from the commodious Flora Hotel to villas, residences and rooming houses. The casino of Kurhaus, on the banks of the Ahr, is leave headquarters, operated by the Y.M.C.A. The leave men bathe in the thermal springs and other warm sulphur springs, as well as the original Apollinaris springs. There are trips to castles along the picturesque Ahr, and to bluffs overlooking the Rhine.

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When You Return to New York STAY AT THE HOTEL M'ALPIN or WALDORF-ASTORIA. A substantial discount and every possible preference and attention to men in the Uniformed Service. AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES JEWISH WELFARE BOARD U.S. ARMY AND NAVY HEADQUARTERS: 5 CLEMENT-MAROT, PARIS OFFICES AND CLUB ROOMS are open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. PARIS: CLEMENT-MAROT. TOURS: CORNER RUE LAFAYETTE. BORDEAUX: 61 COURT D'ALBAZE. BREST: 42 RUE DE CHATEAU. COBLENZ: 11 FLORENZ MABET. DIJON: 46 RUE DE LA LIBERTE. GIEVRES: ST. AIGNAN. LE MANS: 7 RUE MONTAUDAN. NANTES: 16 RUE SCRIBE. ST. NAZAIRE: 85 RUE DU CROISIC. ALL WELCOME.

SOUVENIR STORES SURELY HARD HIT

Got All Stocked Up for Our Trade, and Now A.E.F. Is Running Home

The souvenir stores are up against it. Grave concern over the rapid exodus of the A.E.F. is beginning to be keenly felt by the souvenir storekeepers in the port cities. The merchants who catered to the souvenir craze of the American soldiers are beginning to see rather a dark future ahead of them, for they invested much money in their wares, and when the Yankee troops are all gone—what then?

If the members of the A.E.F. knew little about just when they would leave France, the French storekeepers knew less. Many of them not only stocked up heavily, but made large contracts for such articles as fancy pillow-top table cloths and elaborately embroidered silk handkerchiefs with "Souvenir de France" worked in them in brilliant colors. As these things do not appeal to the French people, they promise to become a drag on the market. Nor are the vendors of these articles alone feeling this sales slump. Two manufacturers in Bordeaux who made a specialty of such things were obliged to shut up shop because of a lack of orders. A good deal of the fancy work was at first done by hand, but when the demand became too great, special machinery was installed in these factories. It was destined to prove a mushroom business, for though it received much encouragement at first, few American soldiers were willing to buy the exorbitant prices asked for the articles, and consequently the sales began to decline. Now the manufacturers are wondering what way to turn.

When Base Section No. 7, at La Rochelle, closed on April 25, no less than ten stores found themselves with goods on their hands which they could not sell. This included not only souvenirs, but Sam Brown belts, divisional insignia, officers' caps and rank ornaments and gold service stripes. Fortunately, the French officers wear the Sam Brown belt as well as the American officers, and there is still a chance to dispose of them, but over the rest of the merchandise the merchants feel nothing but gloom. In St. Nazaire, Brest and Bordeaux the stores are clearing their stocks of American Army goods as fast as possible. As it will be at least two months before these items will be really wanted, they are not to be sold, there is still a chance to dispose of some of the goods, and some of the stores which had large stocks on hand are going "chilly" near the river. Some cracker-shots have been trained. The purpose is to develop quickness and alertness.

Move that town back across the Moselle River" ordered a colonel. "You had it right in the first place, so why did you move it over on the north bank?" Mosellekern is the much moved town, but

LYONS GRAND NOUVEL HOTEL 11 Rue Grolee. Favorite Stopping Place of American Officers. Rooms from 6 to 30 francs.

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"THE RHINE, THE RHINE, THE YANKEE RHINE"

Arabs Due for Jolt From Tractors Sent to Tunis by A. E. F.

It has been moved on maps only, and not bodily. German maps showed it on the south side, French maps had it in the middle of the stream, and the map makers of the 29th Engineers took some one's word for it and placed it on the north side of the Moselle. Now it has to be moved again.

The commanding general of the Fourth Corps is on top of the world, residing in Burg Cochem, a picturesque and lofty castle on an isolated summit. But all is not velvet, for the castle road is so steep that often the general has to get out of his automobile and walk up. Tourists in Trier first of all seek the ruins of the Roman amphitheater, built in the first century and capable of seating 30,000 fans at the gladiator fights. They may have difficulty in finding the old Roman athletic field, built 2,000 years ago, but spread out before him on the Moselle flat is a perfectly good American baseball diamond, built by the Yanks this spring.

American buck privates and officers take orders from a German every day at Neuenahr. The Boche is a German professor hired to teach at the Fourth Corps School. Speaking English in his class is strictly verboten. Clay pigeon shooting with shotguns is one of the duties of the air squadrons in the Rhinehead. At the 1st Air Squadron grounds near Andernach observers and pilots hang away every morning at a "gun club" near the river. Some crack-shots have been trained. The purpose is to develop quickness and alertness.

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ALLAH PRESERVE US, WHAT CAN THIS BE?

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When the Arab, facing the east with his knees on the sands of the Sahara, raises his bowed head to see a hideously colored, three-spitting monster lumbering toward him, one of these days, it will require more than the assurance of his fellow tribesmen who have been overseas in the great war to make him believe what he looks at is nothing more than a machine to draw the plough and other enticements through the soil. But he will soon get accustomed to them, for tractors and caterpillars have been sent by the Ordnance Department to a French company in Tunis for a colonization project. A number of these caterpillars were shipped from the Ordnance depot at Givres last week and the remainder from Bordeaux. They vary in type from the small traction to the heavy 20-ton.

The caterpillars and tractors were used during the war in the motorized Artillery for drawing heavy guns into position. Since then they have been concentrated at Givres as the combat divisions turned them in. There are now 61 machines waiting disposal at Givres. The 10-ton, 55-horsepower type is said to have proved such a success during the war that they are to be shipped to St. Nazaire to the reserve depot and will probably eventually go back to the United States.

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