

American First Army Regarded As Mightiest of All Military Units

By HAL BOYLE
 NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—(AP)—Cut a man in half, and he dies. Cut an army in half, and it usually is destroyed, too.
 But one Army severed in combat during the last war is still alive and flourishing. That is the American First Army, 30 years old this week.

It has traveled a long way and won many battles since it was formed in A la Forte-Sous-Juarre, France, by the General of the Armies John J. Pershing in 1918. Armies, like men of merit, sometimes fail to get the recognition they deserve. This has been the case with the First Army, now based at Fort Jay on Governors Island in New York harbor.

The wearers of the black "A" shoulder patch—insignia of the First Army—sometimes get annoyed with the public's tendency to confuse the achievements of their army with those of General George Patton's more widely known Third Army.

But this confusion is probably inescapable. The average American civilian knows little more about the organization of his armed forces than an Eskimo does about the hierarchy of the Episcopal Church.

In the public mind an army can really be glamorized only through a glamorous leader. And in the Second World War the flamboyant career of two-gun "George" Patton, alternately America's favorite hero and bad boy of the top brass, insured renown for the Third Army he commanded.

Patton was a great leader, and certainly a great leader doesn't have a bad army. But it is doubtful if the Third Army ever quite measured up to the First Army at its peak.

This is in no sense a criticism of the Third Army or the tremendous record it made in its sweep across France. But armies are elastic things, weakened or strengthened as divisions are taken from or added to them. An army one month may be only a planning headquarters containing a few thousand men; the next month it may be a fighting force numbered in the hundreds of thousands. Its morale depends upon the nature of the units that make it up and upon the quality of leadership provided by the army commander.

Outstanding "firsts" because of its mobility, vast weight of arms and high percentage of veteran troops the First Army is regarded by some military men as the mightiest single army in history.

A great army is measured by its reaction to potential disaster as well as by its victories. The First Army, trained and led to France by Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley and later guided by Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, stood up well under both tests.

It is proud of these "firsts": First to hit the beaches of Normandy.

First to break the German iron ring in France—at St. Lo.
 First into Paris.
 First into Belgium.
 First through the Siegfried Line.
 First to take a German city—Aachen.
 First across the Rhine—at Remagen.
 First to link up with the Russians on the River Elbe.
 But perhaps its finest stand was made in the "Battle of the Bulge" in the dark December of 1944. Split in two by a surprise 40-mile German armored breakthrough, the First Army rallied, threw back the enemy, healed its deep wound—and rolled on to victory. Only a great army could have taken a spear thrust like that and survived.

These are the things the veteran First Army remembers. They explain why the newest recruit wears the big black "A" with pride. He's joined a team that never lost.

More Benefits Advocated From Parking Meters

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Motorists who feed coins into parking meters are entitled to something more than merely the privilege of parking, traffic engineers were told at a recent Oregon Traffic Engineering conference at Oregon State college.

Harry Aumuck, Spokane traffic engineer, said that meter revenues—now generally used by towns and cities to reduce general taxation—should go into permanent traffic improvements and investments in off-street parking. He answered critics of parking meters by pointing out that meter-regulated spaces provide from three to five times as effective control as unmetered spaces.

One-way streets were also advocated at the conference as one of the least used but most effective ways of creating better use of existing streets. They not only utilize present facilities without great additional cost, but tend to reduce accidents and save motorists time. The public gets used to them in less than 30 days and merchants find within a few weeks that they actually gain sale volume because their shopping areas are more accessible, it was pointed out.

Officials of the Institute of

Protest Meat Prices



(NEA Telephoto)
 John Miller (left) and James McKissock demonstrate their feelings about meat prices in CIO parade down Broadway in Camden, N. J. "Buy no meat" movements are gaining in strength throughout the rest of the country.

Wool Growers Of Australia Expect Profitable Year

SYDNEY, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Australian wool growers think they will continue to prosper in the new 1948-49 season.

The season officially opened August 1. The first sale will begin in Sydney August 30.

Wool experts have expressed the view that the market will continue to be as strong as in the past two years. Some think the prices may be even higher than in the past two seasons.

Greater competition from continental buyers is expected in the new season. The abolition of the Australian government subsidy on purchases by Australian buyers, however, may help to keep prices down.

Nearly 400,000 bales of wartime surplus wool were placed on the Australian market last season. This year, twice that amount will be released.

Australian wool growers are spending some of their big post-war profits to improve their flocks. Melbourne sales of stud rams in August brought the highest prices in years.

Nobody is guessing yet what American buyers will do in the new season. Everybody, however, is hoping for more United States buying to keep prices up, and to bring in dollars.

Moscow Must Drop Red Crusade To Obtain U. S. Collaboration

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
 AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

The Moscow radio laid aside its customary attacks on the Democracies yesterday and for a change urged closer collaboration between Russia and the United States to assure lasting peace.

The commentator declared that "just as it was collaboration of the great powers that made possible complete victory over the forces of fascism and militarism, so collaboration assure a lasting peace at the present time." Since all broadcasts in Russia are government controlled, we can be sure that this extraordinary statement had official approval.

Such a striking about-face from the caustic criticism of the Democracies makes us pause to enquire "why?" Are the Muscovites talking "for the record," are they on a fishing expedition, or do they really mean business? However, before trying to answer that, let's give a constructive response to the suggestion of collaboration.

There is just one way, as I see it, in which full collaboration can be secured with the United States. That is for Moscow to abandon its project of world revolution for the establishment of Communist governments by force.

America never has challenged Russia on what the latter was doing within Soviet borders. However, the United States has made it quite clear that she will not stand idly by while Communism is thrust upon small nations which lack strength to defend themselves against Moscow-directed aggression.

What U. S. Won't Tolerate
 Mind you, we are not dealing with a normal ideological crusade.

One of the cardinal tenets of Bolshevism is the necessity of using strong-arm methods not only in the establishment of Red governments but in "persuading" unwilling people to subscribe to the ism. In this manner little countries like Czechoslovakia are taken over by Moscow.

The United States will not collaborate with a government which pursues any such scheme of operations. She will not collaborate with an ideology which says that the world isn't big enough to hold both "capitalism" and Communism, and that "capitalistic" countries must be destroyed. She will not tolerate subversive activities by Communists within her own borders.

Bears are near-sighted because of their long-time habit of feeding with noses to the ground. Keen senses of hearing and smell make up for this deficiency.

Man, 80, Obtains License To Marry Eighth Time

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 12.—(AP)—An 80-year-old pensioner from Anacortes, Wash., who said he had been married seven times before, applied for a marriage

license here Tuesday. The elderly bridegroom is John Dodd. The bride is Mabel V. Owen, 57, Vancouver. Dodd said in the marriage license application that he had been divorced twice, and widowed five times.

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