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YANKS BLOCKED DRIVE ON PARIS

Advancing Foe Had Surprise of Life When He Found Ameri- cans in Line.

GRAPHIC STORY IN LETTER

Tells of Our Troops' Heroic Resis- tance in June—Held by Many Offi- cers to Have Saved Paris From Hun.

Washington.—A graphic eyewitness account of the fighting near Chateau-Thierry, in which American divisions, including the marine brigade, took part, early in June, was made public recently by the navy department. It is in the form of a long letter from an officer of the marines to Major General Barnett, commandant of the corps, and the story told is of peculiar significance, as in the opinion of many officers here it was the stand of the Americans along this line which saved Paris.

The name of the writer is not disclosed. The Americans were rushed to the line in motortrucks to support the hard-pressed French. On June 1 the marine brigade deployed in a support position, the battalion commanded by Maj. Thomas Holcomb hurrying into the line as the men climbed out of the trucks. The Germans were coming on, and June 2 the French dropped back, passing through the American lines.

"We had installed ourselves in a house in La Vole Chatel, a little village between Champaign and Lucy-Boconge," the letter says. "From one side we had observation of the north and northeast. They came out on a wonderfully clear day in two columns across a wheat field. We could see the two twin brown columns advancing in perfect order until two-thirds of the columns were judged, were in sight.

Foe Slowed Up by Shrapnel.
"The rifle and machine gun fire was incessant and overhead, shrapnel was bursting. Then the shrapnel came on the target at each shot. The white patches would roll away, and we could see that some of the columns were still there, slowed up, and it seemed perfect shield for them to try.

"Then, under that deadly fire and a barrage of rifle and machine-gun fire, the Boche stopped. It was too much for any man.

"That men should fire deliberately, and use their sights and adjust their range," he says, "was beyond their experience. It must have had a telling effect on the morale of the Boche, for it was something they had not counted on. As a matter of fact, after pushing back the weakened French and then running up against a stone wall of defense, they were literally 'up in the air' and more than stopped. We found that out later from prisoners, for the Germans never knew we were in the front line when they made that attack. They were absolutely mystified at the manner in which the defense stiffened up, until they found that our troops were in line."

The letter tells in detail of the days of fighting that followed. It describes a daylight charge against a machine gun nest and of scouting raids up to June 6, when the whole brigade swung forward to straighten out the line. This action resulted in the capture of Belleu wood.

Hit Three Times, Still Fought on.
Major Sibley's battalion of the Sixth marine regiment led the way here, with Holcomb in support. The woods were alive with enemy machine guns. That night word came back that Robertson, with 20 men of the Ninety-sixth company, had taken Bourches, breaking through a heavy machine gun barrage to enter the town. Robertson, fighting with an automatic in either hand, was hit three times before he would allow himself to be taken to the rear.

Speaking of individual acts of bravery the writer says Duncan, a company commander, "before he was mowed down had his pipe in his mouth and was carrying a stick." Later he adds,

"Beneficial Surgeon Osborne picked up Duncan and with a hospital corps man had just gained some shelter when it shell wiped all three out."
Private Dunlavy, killed later, captured an enemy machine gun in Bourches, which he turned on the foe with great effect, while at another point "Young Timmerman charged a machine gun at the point of the bayonet and sent in 17 prisoners at a clip."
When the enemy made a stand at one point in the woods Sibley's battalion was withdrawn and for an hour and fifty minutes American and French batteries hammered the wood. Hughes, with the Tenth company, then went in, and his first message was that the wood had been cut to mince-meat. Overton, leading the Seventy-sixth company, finally charged the rock plateau, killing or capturing every gunner and capturing all the guns, with few casualties.

The Eighty-second company lost all its officers, and Major Sibley and his adjutant, Lieutenant Ballamy, reorganized it under fire and charged a machine gun nest at the most critical time in all the fighting.
"I wonder if ever an outfit," the letter said, "went up against a more desperate job, stuck to it gamely, without sleep, at times on short rations, with men and officers going off like flies, and I wonder if in all our long list of brilliant deeds there ever were two better stunts than the work of Sibley and Holcomb."

UDINE DEVASTATED

Barbarous Atrocities of the Austrians in Italy.

ROME, Sept. 30.—Professor Calzavara, arriving from Triuli, asserts:
"San Stino di Livenza, where I lived, has been given over to pillage by the Austrian soldiers, who have spared nothing. Whatever has not been stolen has been destroyed."

"At Udine in the first days of the occupation the cruelest barbarities were committed. Everything atrocious and wild was done in the sad supremacy of the Germans and the Germans from Austria. Udine is reduced to 12,000 inhabitants. All industries have stopped, the stores closed and the streets cars have suspended, while all the wheels have been shipped to Austria."

"About sixty of the better palaces have been destroyed by fire, and others have been mined to be blown up whenever the Austrians are obliged to retreat."

"The food situation is desperate. In the Venetian provinces people literally starve to death. The Friulians have been robbed of everything. The wheat has been cut and shipped to Austria. Those robbed were paid in bills of the notorious bank of Deposits and Loans, which have no value whatever."

"All of the wood floors have been taken out of the houses in Udine. To the protests of the inhabitants the Austrians answered simply and invariably: 'We have done this in Rumania, why should we not do the same thing in Italy?'"

"The museums have been sacked and all the curiosities have been sent to Germany and Austria. When any of the inhabitants are suspected they are tried and threatened with death."

THEY ARE AFTER MARTIN.

"I am looking for that old escapade of a Martin King, said Luke Ferguson and Engineer Curtis this morning. You know Martin is out of his territory and we do not propose to have him here selling Liberty Bonds when he belongs at the top of Kamela Hill."

Senator King sold everyone he had in his section and then came into La Grande to induce a few of his close friends to take a few more bonds.

WANTED—Clean White Cotton Rags at the Observer Office; 2c per lb.

How Big Is A Bit? Saving Food Does Not Seem Much Compared To This



How Proud Spirit Rebels at Food Economy Consider the Alternative Of Having to Work in the Fields as They Do In Devastated France.

How big is a bit? Harvesting grain with a hand scythe is harder than knitting a sock or following the food conservation's suggestions for the conservation of the country's food supply.
But all three occupations are "bits," the first the duty of all good French folk, and the others the duty of American women. It is true that any woman who follows all of the instructions tabulated on the Home Card, has an intricate task which calls for intelligence and will power. Intelligence in the choice and quality of food substituted for meat, fats, sugar and other "banned commodities," and will power in her imposition of these saving rules on her immediate family.
But even at that, her work is comparatively easy when lined up with the titanic task which faced every day by her less fortunate sisters in France and Belgium. There is the "bit" to be performed despite broken hearts,

shattered limbs and shattered hopes. Manifestly the people shown in the pictures have the harder job of the two. The French woman overcomes the handicap of a baby by depositing the concerned little one on the new-down grain where she plays contentedly.
The French woman is well pleased if it is "only a leg," for that doesn't stop one from harvesting.
A "bit" is whatever there is to do, done well. No husband, no child, no two photographs show the distresses recaptured from the Germans along the Somme. The woman hurried home as soon as she heard of the retreat, and immediately set to work on the harvesting of the grain.
The soldier is still in the service of his country despite the loss of a leg. But now he cuts down grain instead of Boches. His wife works by his side, happy to be alive and to have him and her home left.

PRaises AMERICANS

Italian Minister For Treasury Ex-presses His Admiration.

ROME, Sept. 30.—Signor Nitti, minister of the treasury, received Senator Cottillo of New York state in audience yesterday and expressed his highest admiration for the American troops in France and Italy.

"One of the greatest marvels of the war," the minister said, "has been the heroic sang froid of your American soldiers under fire. Without receiving a complete military training, the American soldier has demonstrated that when he has a cause he can fight with the efficiency of a veteran."

"America is a land of miracles. The world has been stupefied by the rapid transformation from a peaceful nation—neither trained nor prepared for war—into a nation which reveals the warlike spirit of the Crusaders of old, organized to give men, guns and material which soon will begin to shoot away the last traces of Prussianism."

SCHOOL EXHIBIT AT ISLAND CITY

Display Made Of Agricultural And Floricultural Products.

The annual school fair exhibit of the Island City public school was held Friday afternoon and evening at the school house there. Many different varieties of products of the soil which have been successfully grown in this climate were on display.

The exhibits were divided into agricultural and floricultural products and the specimens of the work of the manual training and domestic science departments.

The fair is strictly a school and community enterprise, the children taking the lead in the organization and arrangement of details.

Mr. Thompson, principal of the school reports most commendable community interest in the activities of the school children.

FUEL MAN IS SOME.

Fred J. Holmes, fuel administrator for Oregon, arrived home yesterday from Portland and will remain for a few days. He says the work of putting the Liberty Loan over in Portland has been a little hard but that success is assured.

New Waterproofing Oil.

A French oil for waterproofing leather, cloth, paper and other materials is a mixture of eight parts of amyl acetate and four of castor oil, with one part of sulphur chloride stirred into it. Though this form a jelly, giving off hydrochloric acid, it liquefies after being kept tightly covered a few days, and the acid being then neutralized with barium carbonate, gives a colorless solution on filtering. To make a varnish, nitrocellulose is dissolved in the liquid after the addition of alcohol or benzine.

Chinese Mouth Organ.

The Chinese have a singular instrument called cheng or mouth-organ. It is a circular bundle of small reeds of different lengths, pierced with finger-holes at proper distances, and communicating with a common air chamber beneath. The notes are produced by stopping the holes with the fingers.

FUNERAL OF MRS. PIERCE.

The funeral of Mrs. Charlotte L. Pierce, widow of Charles M. Pierce was held this afternoon from the Henry Undertaking parlors.
Miss Minnie Pierce will leave with the remains this evening for Morris, Illinois.

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Fruits and Vegetables

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UNION COUNTY REPORTED OVER LADY MANAGER FOR CREAMERY

(Continued From Page 1.)

MRS. KATHRYN HICKS BREECE TO HAVE CHARGE OF LOCAL BRANCH

La Grande has the distinction of having a woman creamery manager, Mrs. Kathryn Hicks Breece.

Mrs. Breece has taken charge of the Valley Creamery, owned by Ward Emigh, of Walla Walla. The new manager was a former resident of Michigan where she had several years of experience in an abstract office, and in various other business activities. Mrs. Breece succeeded to take charge of the Valley Creamery, Mr. C. E. Schiffer, who, after five years of faithful service, has resigned to enter another line of work.

In speaking of the change, Ward Emigh, the creamery proprietor, says: "I am confident Mrs. Breece will fill the bill with satisfaction to our patrons in this locality as she is a woman of great practical experience in a business way. Mr. Schiffer was a very valuable man, but he has decided to take up another occupation in which I wish him the best of success."

Mr. Emigh arrived from his home in Walla Walla Saturday and will remain until tomorrow in the details incident to the change in management.

THE BEST of the HARVEST

For Coffee and Cocoa There's Nothing Better

What a boon in the hurried, hot days is the everready Carnation can on your pantry shelf.

Carnation Milk

is just clean, sweet milk, brought fresh every morning to our condenseries and there evaporated to the consistency of cream.

For coffee and cocoa use it undiluted, just as you would cream. Use it the same way on fruit and cereals. Carnation "makes everything you cook taste better," when used according to directions.

Lots of good housekeepers, in times of stress like threshing, just punch two holes in the top and set the comely can on the table.

Always keep a case or more of Carnation in your storeroom—and you have the right "Answer to the Pure Milk Question."

Sold by Grocers and General Stores

We've 100 tested recipes for the use of Carnation in Cooking. They're in a book called "The Story of Carnation Milk." Let us mail it to you free.

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Special Prices on all our lovely J. C. C. and College Girl Corsets, at the Walling Millinery. 9-161f

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