

U. S. SOLDIERS LIVE IN ROCK HEWN CAVES

American Flag Now Floats Over the Blood-Drenched Valley of the Aisne.

UNDERGROUND LIFE WEIRD

Ancient Quarries, Long Occupied by Germans During War, Shelter Lads From Liberty-Loving Land Eager to Fight for Freedom.

BY FLOYD GIBBONS.
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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Feb. 25.—Build an extension on your American war map. Turn your attention for one minute from the little United States sector northwest of Toul. Run your finger westward along the battle line, round the St. Mihiel salient and pass Verdun's mountain morgue. Continue on and traverse the rock-marked remains of the Chemin des Dames, on through fresh won fields and plant the new standard in the blood-drenched valley of the Aisne.

You have located the spot where American soldiers marched into the battle history of the European war.

French Generals' Praise.
The spirit and manner in which they went to their task can hardly be recounted in words better than those used by the French General now commanding them:

"They are like the pure-blooded, thoroughbred racer, prancing and eager for the start. They have mettle. I have seen no finer body of men. But they must be patient. This is new work for them. They must learn to go slowly at first. Berlin is more than one night's journey."

And this is the opinion of a veteran who commanded an army at the battle of the Marne:

"In spite of the fact that their training has not been as thorough as that of the organization now on the line, these lads are quite up on their toes and ready to go."

And one of the biggest tasks of their commanding officers is to restrain this dangerous eagerness, which, if permitted unlimited expression, would result in future losses.

Rolling Hills Shell-Pitted.
The entire region in which the Americans are located is one long occupied by the Germans, and almost every inch of it has at one time or another been a part of that ever shifting neutral strip between the changing front lines. It is a little of trenches, dabbled here and there with broken episodes of old war entanglements, both German and French. Splintered trees and crumbling walls stand dismal sentinels above the shell-pitted surface of the rolling hills.

In certain sections the front line trenches on both sides have almost completely disappeared under the cloudburst of hot metal that has been hurled upon them. In these places the men are occupying cunningly concealed strong points and even shell holes just large enough to fit a machine gun and its tenders. Almost all frontal communication between these pill boxes is carried on under cover of darkness and then shows a tendency toward the pacific policy of live and let live that prevails in some other sectors.

Earth Cratered Like the Moon.

In company with two other correspondents, I was conducted by French officers up a path on a sheltered side of the ridge. Its lifeless outline against a somber sky presented an appearance as of some new-born land upheaved by internal convulsion and then showered with the ash and dust of past civilization.

Every yard of its surface was pitted and pimpled as if it had been some boiling substance suddenly hardened in the midst of its bubbling. It was cratered like the moon. The similarity to a lunar landscape was only relieved here and there by a tree stump and everywhere tangles of wire. But nowhere was there a sign of life.

"Here," said our conductor, and we proceeded down a slot in the earth. Steps had been built into the ground. Half way down we came upon a sign which read: "Entrance to Boston route." We continued and stood before a door at the bottom. It was opened from within and we stepped into a subterranean plant apparently as populous and buzzing with life as the upper surface had been silent and dead. We blinked in the strange semi-darkness, so sudden had been this transition from the dead world above to this life one below.

Life in the Underground Described.

A few steps forward and we stood in a huge, rock-hewn chamber. Glowing electric bulbs projected from the low ceiling of evenly quarried granite. It was supported in place by ponderous rounded pillars rudely fashioned with maul and chisel. From this hub chamber galleries branched out in all directions. Standing out from the walls of these spacious corridors were rows of roughly constructed cots, on which American men were reclining, reading, singing, or engaged in an endless courtship of dice.

Others walked arm in arm through the galleries. Close under the yellow glow of intermittently placed electric lamps were gathered in debate, sometimes earnest, sometimes boisterous. They seemed perfectly accustomed to their surroundings.

The initial impression of the strangeness and unusualness of the scene evaporated upon sight of those khaki clad youngsters from the homeland who were adapting themselves to this underground life with the ease of bats or sightless creatures that crawl beneath the earth.

Names From the Homeland Used.

Candle-lighted transparencies set in rocky niches indicated the locations of company headquarters, guardhouse, military police, or directions to various exits, each of which bore the name of some state, town, city, or river. At times in our progress over the uneven floor of rock it was necessary to lower our heads to escape bumps in places where the ceiling was low.

Runways branching from the main level indicated there were other tiers below. Wandering through this maze of galleries the sense of direction soon departed and it was not with surprise we learned from officers that it had become necessary to restrict the men to company areas because of the ease with which one became lost in the labyrinth.

I left our party and walked to the edge of a group which was silhouetted around the light in the side of the cavern. The members of it were seriously occupied. None of them was talking.

Looking over the shoulders of the outer circle, I saw the object of the gathering.

A candle spliced into a notched stick that projected from the rock crevice

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BOARD MUST BE SHOWN

GETTING HUSBANDS OUT OF ARMY IS NO EASY TASK

Women Sometimes Find Exemption Officials Are Obdurate and Not Readily Duped.

CAMP LEWIS, Tacoma, Feb. 25.—Getting one's husband out of the military service isn't always the easy task a number of wives have thought it was after going to considerable trouble to pave the way with petitions and physicians' statements. They have learned that the reason for exemption must be legitimate and that it must be shown that the presence of a husband in the Army causes his dependents actual suffering before his release can be obtained.

This became known when one woman came before the board with a statement that she was suffering from physical disability which would necessitate the care of her husband and provision for her support. She was asked to undergo examination by Army physicians at the base hospital and it was



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There's so many cheap clothes on the market today that won't give you any service at all, so when buying your suit this Spring pay a little more for quality. "Quality is always economy." These clothes are of all-wool fabric, hand tailored, and are the most economical to buy for service.

See the new Spring style display at our store. What you'll want at a price that will suit you.

At \$25 and up to \$50

SPRING HATS ARE HERE

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Sam'l Rosenblatt & Co.

The Men's Store for Quality and Service

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association. Mr. Wehe at the last meeting of the association at Walla Walla was elected executive secretary for the state of Washington.

State Buys Harbor Bonds.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 28.—One million dollars' worth of state harbor bonds offered for sale today for necessary improvements at San Francisco harbor were purchased by the state.

Spring Suits, Dresses, Skirts, Waists and Coats on Credit

Most Reliable and Most Reasonable Shop in Portland.

Drummer's Sample Shop

355 Morrison St., Cor. Park

Tenth Annual Mid-Season Shoe Sale

All Short and Broken Lines Will Be Sold at About HALF PRICE

We want all our customers to take advantage, as we positively know this will be your opportunity to get standard makes of shoes at a small price. So, get a whole lot of shoes on tables so you can help yourselves. 25 salesmen at your service. OPEN SATURDAY NIGHT UNTIL 8 O'CLOCK.

5000 Pairs of Ladies' Fine High Grade Shoes Now on Sale at

\$1.98
\$2.48
\$2.98
\$3.98
\$4.98

Worth up to \$7.50. Including all the newest two-tone, as well as plain patterns in grays, blacks, fawn, mahogany, tan, bronze, patent, also white. All sizes from 1 to 8, AA to EE widths. Ladies' Fine Shoes worth to \$7.50 now on sale at

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LOW, MEDIUM OR HIGH HEELS.

House Slippers

49c for Misses' Red Felt House Slippers, all sizes, at only 49c

59c for Ladies' Boys' and Men's Felt House Slippers, several colors, all sizes, at only 59c

79c for hundreds of pairs of Women's \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75 High-Cut Felt Slippers, fur and ribbon trimmed, blacks and colors in this lot. On sale at 79c

Hi-Tops

\$4.98 for Men's \$8.50 12-inch High Tops.

\$5.98 for Men's \$7.50 12-inch High Tops.

\$3.98 for Men's \$5.00 12-inch High Tops.

\$2.98 for Boys' \$4.00 12-inch High Tops.

\$2.48 for Boys' \$3.50 12-inch High Tops.

Women's and Misses' Shoes and Slippers

Now Selling at, Pair

50c

This big lot of Women's, Misses' and Children's Shoes will literally melt away before the great masses of people. Different styles and leathers in Shoes and Slippers at this astonishing bargain price. Choose from this great lot during this sale at the exceedingly low price, per pair.

RUBBER BOOTS

Bright Finished Child's Sizes 6 to 10 1/2 at only \$1.48

Misses' sizes 11 to 2, at \$1.79

Ladies' sizes, 2 1/2 to 8, at \$1.98

Men's Heavy, Dull, Short Boots, all sizes, at \$2.48

Men's Heavy Snag Vamp Boots, at \$2.98

GREENFIELD

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Boys' Shoes

Thousands of pairs on sale at the following prices:

BOYS' \$2.00 SHOES at \$1.48

BOYS' \$2.50 SHOES at \$1.79

BOYS' \$3.00 SHOES at \$1.98

BOYS' \$4.00 SHOES at \$2.98

Children's Shoes

15,000 PAIRS IN STOCK TODAY

SPECIAL PRICES AS FOLLOWS:

Children's \$1.00 79c

Children's \$1.50 98c

Children's \$2.00 1.18

Children's \$2.50 1.38

Children's \$3.00 1.58

Children's \$4.00 1.98

Men's SHOES

5000 Pairs of Men's High Grade Work and Dress Shoes

Now on Sale at

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\$2.98

\$3.98

\$4.98

Worth up to \$7.50. This lot consists of Men's fine black and tan Dress Shoes, in all the new shapes, as well as plain patterns. This lot also consists of hundreds of Men's Extra Quality Work Shoes, tans and blacks, heavy soles in plain and union stamped. ALL SIZES from 5 to 12, A to EE widths. Men's High Grade Shoes, worth up to \$7.50 now on sale at

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\$1.98

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