

WESTERN SOLDIERS START FOR ARGONNE

Period of Training Passes
Quickly and Quietly.

MILITARY POLISH SHOWN

Men Entrain on September 6 at
Foulain and Meuse—Night
Marches Come Later.

BY COLIN V. DYMONT.
American Red Cross Searcher, With the
31st Division.

SECOND ARTICLE.

The department of the Haute Marne, to which the 31st division was sent after it landed in France, is over in eastern France, 172 miles east and a little south of Paris. Its chief city is Chaumont, seat of the "G. H. Q." What hopes have been dashed and what souls exalted by Chaumont? There came promotions and demotions, recommendations for promotion, leaves and denials of leave, transfers and denials of transfer and those other outward evidences that somewhere was a divine mind ruling the American expeditionary force, General Pershing, in short, dwell at Chaumont when he was home, and at Chaumont dwell also the hundreds of other officers and non-coms and "buddies" whom fortune or misfortune had brought to the general staff. From Chaumont, subject to General Foch, the American end of the war was run.

The training area of the 31st was southeast of Chaumont and northeast of Langres. The area was ten miles or so long and four or five wide. Montigny-le-Roi, Nogent-le-Roi and Meuse were the principal towns of the area. Nearly all the division was there except the 26th, 27th and 28th field artillery and the 31st sanitary train. The latter, as stated, had gone from Cherbourg to St. Nazaire and rejoined at Montigny after a month. The artillery never did see its parent division again. Sent to a training region for artillery units, in eastern France, it not only lost its division, but it lost somehow its opportunity to fight; it never got into action. After the armistice the 26th was sent back to Germany. A week ago the last two also began straggling home. All three had a good reputation and it was always a disappointment to thousands of men in the division not to have their own artillery behind them.

Men Are Willing.

The world moved quietly enough in the Haute Marne. France was new, and the month slipped quickly by. The drill and the study were hard, but the men were more than willing. They knew that the great day was not far off. The 31st always took its fighting seriously. The men were eager to be well prepared. Discipline grew better and better, and gradually a military polish began to come.

The area was an agricultural one of an age that is awful to contemplate. If Julius Caesar had ever done any farming outside of Italy, he probably would have done it here. The Haute Marne is a region used to travel up that way. Remains of their roads and their walls were still to be seen. Fritz, the Hun, had never got down the last two and the only signs of war in the peaceful villages were the grave faces and the woeful absence of men. The absence of men, except for the very young and the very old, used to impress the division nightly. Many a westerner, no doubt, could see America in a life and death struggle on the east or west coast, and picture a corresponding scarcity of males.

Villages Are Thronged.

In such a surrounding the men got their last training. Nights they would throng a village, if billeted near one. Nogent-le-Roi, for example, was full of them. Nogent was a queer hamlet, straggling up a steep hill to a castle, a village of stone, its houses and barns built under continuous roofs, its population living primitively and going out to till the fields by day—little different, was Nogent, from the Nogent of 1900, perhaps even 1800. Such places and such ways of living seemed queer indeed to the Californians and northwesterners and Rocky mountain men who had never been out of their states in thousands of instances. It always looked odd that a Montana cowman, a Utah farmer, a San Francisco drummer, an Oregon orchardist, a Washington or Idaho miner, should be away over there in the ancient forest of trans-Alpine Gaul, making ready to fight the descendants of those who fought Julius Caesar. There were deaths, too, as is inevitable among 25,000 men. Late in August Private Timothy Mangan, com-

pany A, 363d Infantry, of 365 Golden Gate avenue, San Francisco, was killed by a hand grenade thrown in practice. Mangan was said for him by the village priest. On August 21 Frederick W. Remani, company C, 347th machine gun battalion, who enlisted at Crockett, Cal., was standing by a gate at Vesaignes-sur-Marne letting a freight train get by. When it had passed he started across and the cowcatcher of a train from the other direction threw him against a wall. He rose and was hit by the steps. He lived 50 minutes. He was buried in American grave No. 3 in the French communal cemetery at Montigny-le-Roi. And so on. These were like the deaths of everyday life, and not like the ones to come. There was time to stop and honor Remani and Mangan and there were coffins for them.

Sector Not Quiet.

August was not far gone when rumors began to fly. Now the division was moved to Belfort, then to the Vesle, now to Lorraine, then to Toul. Dates were set for departure, modes of transport described, routes outlined, but tomorrow always a new rumor arrived. Great is Dame Rumor in the old A. E. F.; great was she in the 31st division. Those who will some day make medals and tablets and sculptures to immortalize deeds and memories should not overlook the dame. She has done much to conserve the morale of the division. After all, immediate hope is what we live on.

The Belfort rumor was the favorite one. Belfort was east by southeast across the Haute Saone divide, and the men thought they would go there into a quiet sector, holding a quiet front line in further training. Hell never broke loose in the Belfort sector. It was a supposedly quiet sector to which they were really sent; hell did break loose there. For going through hell, the troops were sent to the front line. It was not August 3 or 5 or 9 or 13.

Except a few headquarters folk who went by auto, the division was carried by train. The entraining points were principally Foulain and Meuse. Verily was September 6 a day of much speculation. The cowcatchers pointed north, but to most of the men that merely meant a roundabout trip to Belfort. When the whistle blew at the detraining point they were at Gondrecourt.

Argonne Is Destination.

Gondrecourt is in the extreme southern end of the Meuse, and in this department are numerous towns noted in great war history. Bar-le-Duc, goal of the crown prince in '14, when he tried to encircle Verdun, is in the Meuse, 200 miles east of Paris and 48 southwest of Verdun. The fortress of Verdun itself is there. So are all those towns through which the 31st fought in the Argonne—Verdun, Epinoyville, Eclouffe, Gesnes, Verdun and hills 256, 261 and 281. In the far north is Stenay, notable in the last days of German resistance.

But when the 31st detrained at Gondrecourt, Verdun and Epinoyville and Gesnes had never been heard of, and the Argonne was only a name. Few except officers realized that the division's nose was pointing straight to the Argonne. The common soldier still supposed he would be sent away round to Belfort, or perhaps now over to Toul. He knew that Americans had been in the trenches at Toul.

Sleep Comes Quickly.

About the 19th of September a long line of men filed out of the Gondrecourt area at night. Lights were forbidden, and that was the first time for that. Marching without lights is hard. Not only do the men stumble over uncertain obstacles, but the full packs seem to pull harder and cut deeper when there is nothing to see. Cut off the sense of sight and the sense of touch at once becomes more acute.

This night was the beginning of a series of marches by night, and the next day was the beginning of a series of marches by day. The destination of the early morning was the woods of Sauvoy. The troops entered it before daylight; entered under dripping rain, and made the best they could of it. There is nothing like a long hike with an 80-pound pack to make a man sleep. Pup tents went up, blankets were spread beneath the wet grass, two men crawled into each tent, and in a few minutes no one would have realized from a half-mile away that nearly 25,000 men lay in the forest.

Ten days more of that sort of thing were to put the men at the front, but at which front none of them knew.

CHAMBER APPROVES OREGON LEGISLATION

C. N. McArthur and Directors
Hold Conference.

SOLDIERS' BILL IS PASSED

Measure Providing for Lieutenant-Governor Is Held Purely Political; No Action Taken.

C. N. McArthur, representative in congress from this district, held a conference with the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, when matters pending with government departments at Washington were discussed. The war period has brought about unusual calls upon congressmen for representing the business interests of the community in matters before departmental bureaus. It has so developed that a member of the house becomes essentially a business agent of his district.

Mr. McArthur is desirous of being fully informed on matters of special interest to Portland and Oregon. He is especially concerned about reconstruction bills, in which Oregon has taken an advanced position with a view to sharing in government appropriations for land settlement, road building and the like.

Committee Report Approved.

Attention of the directors of the chamber was especially devoted to the measures of the Oregon legislature submitted to the voters for decision at the special election to be held June 3. The board of directors adopted the report submitted by the special committee composed of F. C. Knapp, C. A. Bell, Edward Ehrman, R. H. Strong and Paul Murphy, as follows:

Senate joint resolution No. 25.—Known as reconstruction bond issue, authorizing issue of bonds in amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 for reconstruction, reclamation and land settlement. Approved as measure of great material worth in furthering development of state and aid to veterans of the war.

House joint resolution No. 32.—Guarantee by state of interest on bonds of municipal irrigation and drainage districts for the first five years of the life of such bonds. Approved.

House joint resolution No. 20.—This act was designed to enable the state compensation board to utilize funds which it has to construct an industrial and reconstruction hospital at Portland, where it is needed for the benefit of the large number of persons employed in industrial plants. Approved.

Market Roads Sought.

Senate bill No. 23.—For building market roads. Approved in consideration of the assistance that will thus be rendered to remote sections of the state.

Senate joint resolution No. 11.—To authorize counties to contract debts not exceeding 5 per cent of assessed valuation for the purpose of building permanent roads. Approved.

House bill No. 147.—Roosevelt highway. While this measure introduces the raising of funds for highway building by direct taxation for the first time, it is approved as calculated to prove of inestimable value in development of the coast counties.

Senate bill No. 263.—Financial aid for soldiers and sailors for educational work. Not acted upon, as it is not regarded as an economic measure.

House joint resolution No. 21.—To create office of lieutenant-governor. No action, committee holding that it is purely a political measure and recommending no action.

RUSTLING CASE UP AGAIN

TRIAL OF JOHN WARNER,
BROTHERS RANCHER, BEGINS.

Time-Shrunken Steer's Head—
Some Evidence on Which Prob-
able Conviction May Rest.

BEND, Or., April 9.—(Special).—For the second time in 12 months, the case of John Warner, rancher of the Brothers' section, charged with cattle rustling, went to trial in circuit court here today. Warner was convicted in the April term of 1918, but the case was remanded from the supreme court for a new trial on the grounds that evidence had been improperly admitted.

Because of the wide publicity given the affair, selection of a jury took up the greater part of the day and only after a special venire had been summoned, could the list of 12 be completed.

Around a time-shrunken steer's head is centered the evidence which the state will give for the second time. On the satisfactory identification of the gruesome trophy as the head of the animal alleged to have been stolen by the defendant from Tom Houston will rest the disposition of the case. It was indicated this afternoon, when attorneys for the defendant endeavored to shut out testimony bearing on this point.

Claims Against Estate Filed.

VANCOUVER, Wash., April 9.—(Special).—Claims against the estate of the late E. S. Cobb, of the National Home Building company, refund, were filed in the superior court today by C. E. Braley, local plumber, and the Vancouver National bank. The bank alleges that its claim is in two notes, \$2500 each, but some of one of the notes has been paid, the total claim being \$1577.55. A plumbing bill of C. E. Braley is for \$153.

Infantry Companies Coming.

VANCOUVER, Wash., April 9.—(Special).—Four companies of infantry are coming to Vancouver barracks in the next few days from Fort D. A. Russell, near Cheyenne, Wyo. They are to remain until June at least, and then one company is to go to Alaska. General Morrison in San Francisco telephoned this information to Colonel Charles Van Way here today, while talking about other matters over the telephone.

U. S. Ship Arrives From Danzig.

NEW YORK, April 9.—The American steamship West Humshaw, first allied merchantman to enter a German port since the war, arrived here today on her return trip from Danzig. The West Humshaw was sent to the Baltic port with a cargo of American food for the relief of the Poles. She left Danzig March 25 in ballast, but brought a large amount of German mail.

Dry slabwood and inside wood, green stamps, for cash. Holman Fuel Co. Main 353, A 325.—Adv.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian. Phone Main 7070, A 5025.

Chemist Gives Recipe for a Face Cream

A well-known chemist recently made the following statement about face creams: "Any lady can easily and cheaply make a face cream or lotion that will improve the complexion, alter roughness of the skin, prevent and cure chapped hands, and cracked lips. It will remove as well as prevent tan or sunburn in summer, and softens the skin. Men will find it excellent after shaving."

To make it, merely get one ounce of glycerine and 25c worth of powdered grease at any drug store. Dissolve the grease in the glycerine, add a pint of water and pour into bottles.

This makes more than a pint of thick antiseptic greaseless cream or lotion, very healing and soothing, and perfectly harmless. It is enough to last you for months, and costs you only a few cents. The same amount of cream purchased in tubes or bottles would cost you several dollars.—Adv.

Genuine Butter Nut

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and builds up the system.



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