

Going Across

Every Reasonable
Comfort and
Convenience Is
Afforded Uncle
Sam's Soldiers
on the Big
Troopships.

Khaki Clad Boys Who Have
Landed in France Send Back
Enthusiastic Descriptions of
Their Experience While Cross-
ing the Ocean—Life Aboard
the Big Transports Intimately
Portrayed in Some Clever Let-
ters Written Home.

BY CLIVE MARSHALL.

FOR many months after the Amer-
ican troops began landing in
France, all facts connected with
their transportation across the ocean
were shrouded in mystery.

The public merely knew that trans-
ports were leaving our shores, from
unknown ports, and arriving safely, by
unknown routes, at unknown ports in
France.

And for a while as little was known
of life and conditions aboard the trans-
ports as of their routes and destina-
tions.

But while the ports and routes are
still kept wisely secret, the censors
have recently lifted the veil, to some
extent, from the interesting picture of
daily life aboard the transports, and
the boys in khaki have been permitted,
within certain limitations, to describe
their experiences going across.

For the majority of them, crossing
the ocean is as great an adventure as
it was to Christopher Columbus. A
few have known foreign travel before,
but 98 out of 100 never dreamed of
going to Europe, and enjoy immensely
an experience which probably would
never have come to them except for
the world war.

Waterproof Enthusiasm.

The submarine menace is powerless
to dampen their enthusiasm, and if
there are any hardships they accept
them in the same spirit as if they were
on a camping trip or on a vacation ad-
venture.

The only thing that ever gets their
"goat" is seasickness, and they strive
manfully to make a joke even of it.

Sergeant Leavitt Tilley, a South Da-
kota soldier boy, now near the battle
line in France, wrote home to tell how
a wag among his friends on the trans-
port raised hopes among the seafar-
ers of nearing land while they were
still in mid-Atlantic.

"One morning," wrote Sergeant Til-
ley, "Bugler Badden came down into
our quarters from the deck, after in-
spection was over and shouted to the
men that we were only three miles
from land. The seafarers were bright-
ened up with an immense feeling of
relief, and eagerly asked:

"Which side of the ship can we see
it from?"

"Well, boys, you can't exactly see it,
because it's straight down," replied
the bugler.

Except for the seasickness, which no
amount of luxury on shipboard could
change, the soldiers get great pleasure
out of the trips across. They are well
fed, sleep comfortably, have plenty of
opportunity for music and amusements,
and accept the whole voyage as a sort
of picnic before plunging into the grim
business of fighting at the front.

And, indeed, everything within the
bounds of practical reason is done to
make them satisfied and comfortable
on the voyage. During the first epoch
of transport sailings, officers and men
alike were distressed at being kept for
so many days entirely without the
news from the battle front.

When they stepped aboard the trans-
port they were cut off from all world
news until they landed on the other
side. Somebody on one big American
transport decided that this condition
could be remedied, and the result was
the daily publication on that particular
boat of a newspaper called "The
Hatchet," which printed the news re-
ceived by wireless, and which was dis-
tributed free to every man on board.
Other transports equipped with wire-
less, it is said, are planning to adopt
this idea.

An Ocean "Extra"

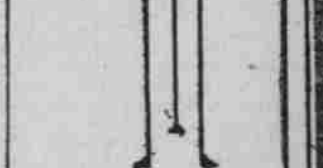
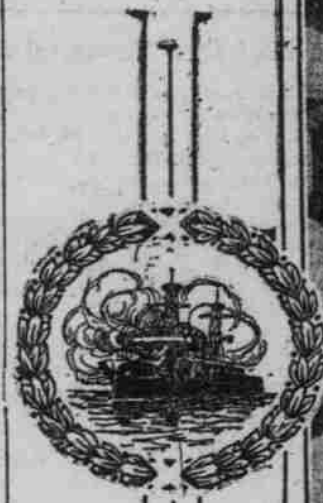
A copy of "The Hatchet" has been
brought to port, containing not only
news items and communications by wire-
less, but many witty contributions,
verses and editorials dealing with life
aboard ship.

"And what a scramble for it there
is!" declared the sailor who told of
"The Hatchet" publication. "We print
an edition of 7000 copies and they go
in record time. No price is charged.
Every man aboard gets a copy free."

"The Hatchet" comes from an
"enemy" press, for aboard the trans-
port, which was one of the biggest of
the seized German liners, was found a
German press and plenty of type.

Printers and pressmen among the sail-
ors and the soldiers aboard operate the
machinery. Contributions are solicited
from the men aboard.

Two permanent editors has "The



Lifeboat Drill Is a Daily Occurrence in Which the Boys
Are Keenly Interested.

"Hatchet"—the ship captain and the ship
chaplain. Two others it had on a re-
cent voyage—a well-known New York
Newspaper man going across with the
Y. M. C. A. and a famous surgeon with
a hospital on Long Island. The news-
paper man was responsible for a
"Mother Goose at Sea" every day.

Sleep in Clothes.

As the transport passed the middle
of the Atlantic and drew closer to Eu-
rope every man aboard slept in his
clothes to be prepared for submarine
contingencies. It moved "Mother Goose"
to remark:

"Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John
Goes to bed with his trousers on,
Campaign hat on his head—
Ain't his swimming costume cute?"

A chaplain with the 308th Infantry,
now in France, writing back of the
"jolly trip" his regiment had on their
transport, describes life on shipboard
with vivid enthusiasm:

"At this writing we are approaching
the end of a very jolly trip across the
Atlantic. The party is a large one, and
circumstances occasioned the dis-
cussion of the three battalions. The
members of these battalions were found
to be having an excellent time and
were looking forward to an abundance
of fun the remainder of the voyage.

The boys on our ship enjoyed the trip
thoroughly up to this point of sighting
land.

"There were frequent band concerts
on the forward deck. The band, in
fact, was a frequent source of pleasure.
The boys organized their own enter-
tainments, and showed considerable
talent.

"The boys took up the lifeboat drill
with zest. They showed an orderliness
and promptness that promised to be of
great benefit in event of accident. The
earnestness and spirit of these drills
awakened a feeling of youth in our
staid and dignified seniors. As a re-
sult Majors Martin, Nelson and Weaver
indulged in a spirited contest for su-
premacy in ladder climbing. Major
Martin carried off the honors."

Another writer home has drawn a vivid
picture of a crossing aboard a former
magnificent German passenger liner
which has been seized and converted
into a transport for American troops.

"Except in the cabin decks," he says,
"the liner has been little altered for
her new duties. The red room is just
as gaudily decorated, and the emble-
matic paintings of the different
German cities are still in position.



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"The big dining-room saloon is being
used as sleeping quarters, mess hall
and living-room for the troops. The
beds can be hauled up to the ceiling
during the daytime. It is a big prob-
lem to care for the several thousand
soldiers. A transport vessel consti-
tutes a village in itself, and a good-
sized village at that. Amusements,
concerts, theater parties, card games
are arranged by the boys themselves
in the mess hall.

Watching for U-Boats.

"There is every evidence of good or-
ganization and discipline. In case of
an accident, or a torpedo, I am sure
that heavy loss of life would be averted.

"Every precaution has been taken to
enable the transport to see the enemy
first. There are officers on the bridge,
trained to act quickly. There are keen-
eyed gun crews, accustomed to be on
the alert for any unusual object. Above
the bridge is the lookout station, where
trained men, watching in short relays,
scan given small sections, reporting
everything to a central station. This
is called intensive watching. Given the
speed of the ship and the manner of
posting the lookouts, it is very difficult
for a submarine to approach."

Another letter from a member of a
transport crew gives an amusing ac-
count of mealtime aboard ship during
heavy weather.

"Sometimes," he says, "the sea runs
high almost all the way across, buff-
eting the ship about so much that the
stacked mess tables and benches re-
main stacked, and the deck serves the
purpose of both. Then you get your
chow like a line before a quick-lunch
counter."

"You hold up your plate for the cook
to try out his aim with a ladle of beans,
and if the ship doesn't give a lurch,
just then you get the beans, but if it
does you don't, and are hurried like a
flash past the line and the other men
cooks who are likewise engaged in the
hit-or-miss game of flinging food at
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"As we make port the town's inhabi-
tants greet us with volley after volley
of cheers in French, while the pretty
girls wave and throw us kisses by the
wholesale, and people shout themselves
hoarse, and clatter over the cobble-
stones in their wooden shoes."

"I'm not permitted to give a worth-
while description of the town where
the troops we take across disembark,
but there isn't any harm in saying that
it reminds one of a street scene in
The Pied Piper of Hamelin. All that is
missing to complete the picture is the
rats. The stores in between the quaint,
looking wineshops sell embroidered and
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other form of business—the tourist ho-
tels. The wide-awake portions of the
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ural attractions and millions of dollars
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Guns on the Transports and Ac- companying Destroyer Con- voys Afford Protection Against Submarines.

art that a youth contemplating matri-
mony should lie to the market place
for selecting a bride. My boy, when you
see a maiden pinching, smelling and
prizing a soup bone, you may rely on
her sense of economy, for she is look-
ing forward not less than two meals.
The soup bone, when cooked, is merely
food in the rough or primitive state. Its
choicest byproducts are realized after
the bouillon stage. Thereafter comes
the goulash, the croquettes and the lus-
cious hash. By all means avoid the
girl who orders choice cuts of porter-
house or the tail end of a ham bone
and renders them into dainty, palatable
dishes in the one you want. So take my
advice and seek the market place when
you feel that you have had your fill of
bachelor loneliness and wish a taste of
wedlock. Follow such a girl around
until you are perfectly satisfied, then
sail her.

PATRIOTIC WORK PLANNED Los Angeles Rotarians to Help Americanize Foreign-Born.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., July 19.—The
Los Angeles Rotary Club has evinced a
desire to aid the Government in its new
Americanization programme by assum-
ing the financial and supervisory re-
sponsibilities of the Los Angeles settle-
ment house, an institution situated in
a district here where of the 200 resi-
dents representing 20 nationalities,
only one is an American.

Approximately 70 per cent of the
persons in the district who have re-
ceived moral, social and material aid
through the settlement are Mexicans,
according to Miss Rut H.C. Hoffman,
secretary and supervisor. The others
principally are Italians, Syrians,
Greeks, Russians and Hungarians, she
said.

The ideals of America and democracy
are fostered in these people through the
work of the settlement along social
and educational lines, and while the
plans of the Rotarians do not con-
template any radical change in the work
it is intended to lay particular stress upon
the Government's Americanization pro-
gramme, teach them loyalty to the flag
and the laws of the country of their
adoption.

Hundreds of these foreign-born resi-
dents have displayed a real patriotic
zeal and have supported the Govern-
ment loyally in the prosecution of the
war, according to Miss Hoffman. They
have observed strictly the food conser-
vation measures, planted carefully-
tended war gardens, supported the lib-
erty loans and thrift campaigns and
aided the Red Cross, she said. Many
of the boys and girls have also pledged
themselves voluntarily to love the
country of their adoption and to re-
spect the flag.

Every effort has been made to in-
struct them regarding the laws and
moral standards of America and to
teach them to observe them.

Back to Nature.

"Why is it, Sam, that one never hears
of a darky committing suicide?" in-
quired the Northerner.

"Well, you see, it's disaway, boss:
when a white pusson has any trouble
he sets down an' gits to study" bout
it an' a-worryin'. Then first thing you
know he's done killed hisself. But when
a nigger sets down to think 'bout his
trouble, why, he jes' nacherly goes to
sleep!"—Life.

MASCARILLO
NOT A DYE
For coloring the eyebrows, beard and hair.
Absolutely harmless. For all faces the best.
Removes wrinkles, reddens, chafes, and
price 10c. Sold by all drug stores.
Chicago, Denver, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma,
Woodward, Clark Drug Co., &
other good drug & dept. stores.