

BAYONET SAVES AMERICAN LIVES

Escape German Shell When One of Party Stops to Dig Up Relic.

SEE SCENES OF DESOLATION

Once Richly Cultivated Valleys Speckled With Happy Villages, Now But a Sordid Panorama of Churned-Up Soil.

With the French Armies in the Field, —If one of the party hadn't stopped to dig up a Boche bayonet from the roadside, this piece wouldn't have been written.

The French officer-chaperone and his charges had tarried on the way back to Verdun from one of the outlying forts to chat with a bunch of Red Cross men, and incidentally to watch the antics of a flock of German airplanes as they dodged in and out among the feathery puffs of shrapnel. The usual daily artillery strafe had been on for some hours. Hundreds of tons of metal had been bowling above our heads from both sides, far up and down the line. At times there was a shot for every second. But so far the Boche targets had been located a comfortable distance away.

Our officer had given the word to resume the journey, and the chauffeurs were cranking up, when the opportunity of gathering in another battlefield souvenir intervened. It is still there.

Careful figuring, conducted very shortly thereafter in one of the Red Cross dugouts nearby, convinced the whole party that if it hadn't been for the bayonet episode our ears would have collided with the big Boche shell just at the moment of its explosion about a block down the road.

The experience had merely supplied a vivid final touch to impressions already acquired—of what the soldiers of Verdun have been undergoing in the last eighteen months. In this region Nature has been given no opportunity, as she has, for example, on the battlefield of the Somme, to repair as best she can the ravages of war. From the top of one of the battered forts that now forms an unbreakable ring about Verdun—recaptured from the Germans with a valor and at a sacrifice of life that will make its name immortal in history—stretches out, as far as ten-ply, made-in-Germany binoculars can reach, a vista of utter devastation.

Once thickly forested hills and richly cultivated valleys speckled with happy villages; now a sordid, grayish, monotonous panorama of churned-up soil, criss-crossed here and there with trenches, and only an occasional stump or pile of crumpled stones to evidence its former beauty. It's like Notre Dame de Lorette, Vimy, Wytschete, Messines and Passchendaele Ridge all scrambled together.

All the forces of nature—fire, flood, hurricane and earthquake—could not have wrought such havoc. Only man could do it. Even looking backward, the only discernible color is the green of the distant hills, the shattered red-tiled roofs of the fortress city, and the clusters of purple-wreathed graves where sleep the men who made the motto of Verdun—"On ne passe pas" (No trespassers allowed!)—a reality.

The Germans now occupy much the same line as that from which the crown prince lunched his costly but futile attack upon this stronghold. Previously we had traversed the valley of the Meuse whose landscape bears ample testimony to the characteristic French traits of dash, mobility and resourcefulness; just as Verdun's pitifully harrowed hillsides will always be a monument to the hitherto less familiarly known French qualities of tireless energy and dogged stubbornness.

Then on through the forest of the Vosges down to where France in the early days of the war plucked, and still tightly clutches, a bit of what used to be hers. It's only a few square miles—just about equal to the plot of ground that Belgium now holds of her own ravished country—but entirely sufficient to exemplify and justify another fine French trait, intense pride of accomplishment.

"Alsace Reconquise!" proudly reads the sign over a little shop fronting the badly scarred old church in the public square of Thann. Nearly all the old signs have been changed from German, but some have been retained just for souvenirs. In this corner of the "lost

provinces" there is no doubt how the people stand.

Are the people of France war-weary? Yes; so are those of all Europe. But they are not weary to the point of even thinking of giving up the struggle, despite, or, rather, because of, the fact that of all the allies France's burdens and her sacrifice in blood and desolated homes has been the greatest.

In a tour of the war zone and of the provincial towns behind the lines, from the channel to Switzerland, one may find everywhere abundant evidence of a relentless determination, among both soldiers and homefolks, to see the thing through.

But the predominant sentiment in France today is one of intense gratitude that America has come in to help. Any fleeting doubts as to the outcome were dispelled with the arrival of the Sammies.

FLYERS BREAK ALL AERIAL RECORDS

Paris.—So many speed and distance records have been shattered and set and then surpassed again by allied aviators that it is doubtful if the best performances will ever be straightened out and set down on the official books.

But aviators have been flying from points in England and in France to the Italian front every day, as the British and French war offices have outdone themselves in their efforts to re-enforce the French aviation service. Pilots just breveted—and there were a certain number of Americans among them—soared into the air, and following the lead of an instructor or some veteran aviator, set their course for Italy.

Youths who had not sat in an airplane two months before, duplicated the feat of Roland Garros which startled the world a few years ago; the traversing of the Italian Alps. Flights of 400, 500 and 600 miles without stop were common occurrences. And in all cases the average speed maintained was considerably more than 100 miles an hour.

One of General Cadorna's first requests to the French and British was for re-enforcements in airplanes and pilots. The Germans had assembled several score of their best fighting and bombing squadrons on the Italian front and had struck suddenly in a body. In one day the German formations had practically cleared the air of Italian fighting aircraft, and they followed up this advantage by sending over into the Italian lines squadron after squadron of bombing machines. Inferior bombs and aerial torpe-

does were rained on the Italian aviation fields and the hangars and Italian aircraft burned together.

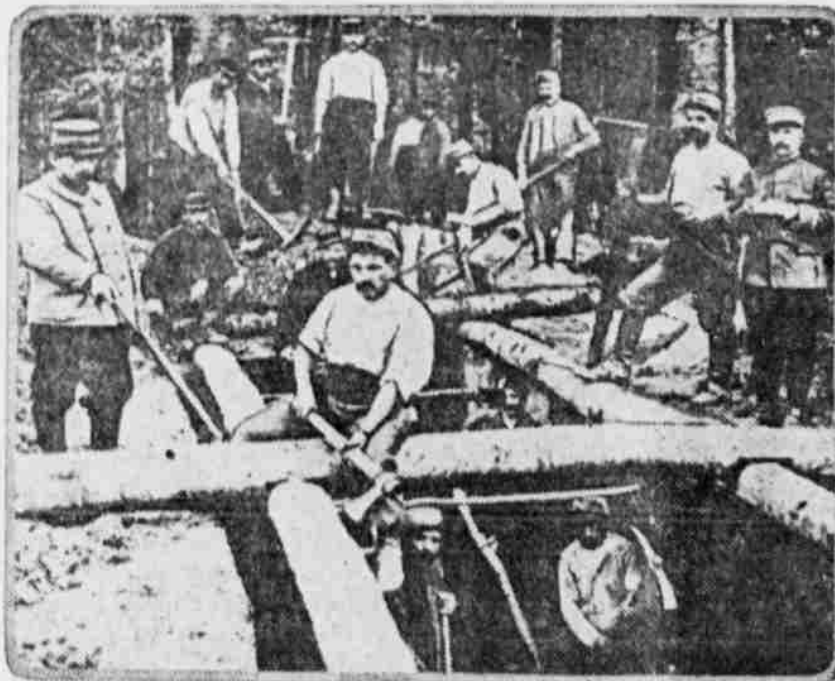
Both the French and British general staffs realized that without its "eyes" the Italian army might wander into traps and pitfalls. And they gave the order at once to re-enforce the Italian aviation service with their own squadrons. The order went out to all the aviation camps and schools in England and France. Within a few hours the orders were being executed.

Pilots having passed their brevets were mustered out on the fields. They were told to wear two leather and rubber union suits instead of the single garment they usually wear. The gasoline tanks were filled and they were instructed to follow the leader. Then they soared off in long coveys, all headed toward the Italian Alps.

Some of the British machines went clear across England, traversed the channel, then soared over France and scaled the Alps and proceeded straight on to the Tagliamento line without ever descending. French machines flew from remote corners of the republic over the great mountain range and across the plains of Lombardy to Udine, arriving there before the Italians were forced to retreat from that strategic railway center.

I may not even vaguely indicate the number of airplanes that were sent from France and England, but I can state that the number of accidents was as low as the average total for a day at any of the big aviation schools.

NONE TOO OLD TO SERVE FRANCE



That service to one's country recognizes no age limit is evident from this photograph showing Frenchmen too old to fight constructing trenches and dugouts behind the battle lines. Each man, a volunteer, has released a younger man for duty at the front. Many of these men served France in 1870.

WORK FOR MAIMED

Plan for Re-Education of Disabled American Soldiers.

To Be Helped to Rehabilitate Themselves as Useful Citizens of the Republic.

Washington.—Now that our troops have begun to actually take part in the great war, a great problem will soon have to be faced. It will soon have to be faced. It will have to do with the re-education of disabled soldiers. It will not be enough for the government to place those who are permanently disabled in soldiers' homes and allow them to complete their existence in material comfort, but those who are partially disabled so as to make them unable to return to the occupations and trades which they left to serve their country will have to be re-educated in some employment which will enable them to rebe-

hilitate themselves as useful citizens of the republic.

Although the plans have not progressed enough to make a formal announcement of their scope, it is known that the war department, the surgeon general's office, is working on the theory that the re-education must commence in the hospital while the patient is convalescent.

The government will probably follow closely the plans of the Canadian government, which is to continue its military control over the badly wounded until a competent board consisting of officers, doctors and laymen pronounce the re-education complete and the soldier ready for new endeavors.

According to accepted theories, the re-employment of the faculties begins in the hospital bed with games and puzzles which excite the interest and take the mind off misfortunes. The badly maimed often lose courage and hope, and have often after previous wars insisted upon being supported by the government in soldiers' homes without effort on their own behalf.

MUST STIMULATE ALL CROPS

State College to Work Out Program for Bigger Yields.

Washington's contribution to the war cause will be intensive stimulation of crop production. At a conference in Spokane last week of E. O. Holland, president of Washington State College; E. F. Benson, of the state department of agriculture, and Charles Heberd, chairman of the food supply and conservation committee of the State Council of Defense, it was decided that the state college work out a program at once for greater food production.

"Winter wheat sowing in the state was only 15 to 25 per cent of normal," said Mr. Heberd. "We must depend upon spring sowing to increase the wheat crop. The situation as it exists now is grave."

Definite plans will be formulated at a meeting in Spokane January 25.

Stops Sale of Bread in Quantity Lots.

The sale of bread in quantity lots by bakers and retail merchants has been forbidden by Charles Heberd, food administrator for Washington. The ruling is effective at once and applies to bread dealers whether licensed or not.

"The food administration for Washington rules that the sale of bread in quantity lots—three loaves for 25 cents—is a wasteful practice an encourages over-consumption and the leaving of stale bread on hand in families," says the instructions sent to bakers and retailers by Mr. Heberd. "You are notified that effective at once, quantity prices are to be discontinued. In future you will make loaf price only."

The distributors have been notified that they may make the price either eight or nine cents each, but must not make the price dependent upon the number of loaves sold.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Wheat—Bulk basis for No. 1 grade: Hard white—Bluestem, Early Bart, Allen, Galgalus, Martin Amber, \$2.05. Soft white—Palouse bluestem, fortyfold, White Valley, Gold Coin, White Russian, \$2.03. White club—Little club, Jenkins club, white hybrids, Sonor, \$2.01. Red Walla Walla—Red Russian, red hybrids, Jones five, Coppei, \$1.98. No. 2 grade, 3c less. No. 3 grade, 6c less; other grades handled by sample.

Flour—Patents, \$10. Millfeed—Spot mill prices: Bran, \$33 per ton; shorts, \$36; middlings, \$46; rolled barley, \$60@62; rolled oats, \$62.

Corn—Whole, \$84 per ton; cracked, \$85.

Hay—Buying prices: Eastern Oregon timothy, \$25@26; alfalfa, \$24 per ton; valley grain hay, \$24; clover, \$22; straw, \$8.

Butter—Cubes, extras, 45@46c per pound; prime firsts, 45c. Jobbing prices: Prints, extras, 46@48c; cartons, 1c extra; butterfat, No. 1, 52@53c, delivered.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, current receipts, 47@48c per dozen; candled, 50c; select, 55c.

Poultry—Hens, large, 20c; per pound; small, 18c; springs, 18@19c; ducks, 20c; geese, 14@18c; turkeys, live, 20@22c; dressed, choice, 30@30½c.

Veal—Fancy, 15@16c per pound.

Pork—Fancy, 17@18c per pound.

Vegetables—Tomatoes, \$2.50 per crate; cabbage, 12@21c per pound; lettuce, \$2@2.25 per crate; cucumbers, \$1.35@1.75 per dozen; peppers, 15@17c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.25@2.50 per crate; sprouts, 10@11c per pound; artichokes, 85c @ \$1.10 per pound; garlic, 7@8½c; squash, 12c per pound; pumpkins, 1½c per pound; celery, \$3.50@4.52 per crate.

Potatoes—Oregon, \$1.25@1.60 per hundred; Yakima, \$1.50@1.75; sweet potatoes, 4½c per pound.

Onions—No. 1, \$2.50@2.75; No. 2, 2 per hundred.

Green fruits—Apples, \$1 @ 2.25; pears, \$1.25 @ 2.25; grapes, 7c per pound; cranberries, \$13.50@16.50 per barrel.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 50@60c per pound; valley, 55@60c; mohair, long staple, 55c.

January 4, 1918.

Cattle—Med. to choice steers... \$ 9.75@10.50
Good to med. steers... 8.75@ 9.65
Com. to good steers... 7.25@ 8.40
Choice cows and heifers... 7.00@ 7.85
Com. to good cows and hf... 5.75@ 7.35
Canners... 3.00@ 5.50
Bulls... 4.50@ 7.00
Calves... 7.00@10.00
Stockers and feeders... 6.00@ 8.00

Hogs—Prime light hogs... \$15.35@15.50
Prime heavy hogs... 15.45@15.60
Pigs... 13.50@14.50
Bulk... 15.00

Sheep—Western lambs... \$13.00@13.50
Valley lambs... 12.50@13.00
Yearlings... 12.00@12.50
Wethers... 11.75@12.25
Ewes... 8.00@10.00

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Walter Meals, a well-known resident of Josephine county, committed suicide by shooting himself in the forehead with a .32 caliber rifle, early Sunday morning.

A deal was closed at Seaside a few days ago whereby J. A. Prouty, of the Prouty Lumber & Box Co., secured the mill owned by the Nehalem Lumber company at Timber.

Secretary of State Cicott issued 48,632 automobile licenses during the year 1917, as compared to 33,917 for 1916, an increase of approximately 15,000, or nearly 50 per cent over 1916.

All Coos Bay industries, with the exception of the Coos Bay Shipbuilding company yard and the Bay Park sawmill, did not observe New Year's day, but continued work on government force needs.

William Ackers, of Roseburg, 103 years old, died Saturday at the county home. He was a Kentuckian, born in 1814. He has relatives in Coos county. He was the oldest white man in Douglas county when he died.

The Indians of the Shaker faith on the Klamath reservation have decided to combine with the original Shaker corporation of this sect at Olympia, Wash., and Sergeant Brown left for that point Saturday to complete the arrangements for the local organization.

Rain, which has fallen almost continuously during the past 10 days, has been the heaviest ever known in Clatsop county. Owing to the illness and death of Weather Observer Rost no accurate report of the rainfall has been kept, but it is believed to have smashed all previous records.

Lena Briggs 12, of Eugene, borrowed \$5 at the Bank of Commerce in February and invested the money in eggs under a plan of loans by the bank to boys and girls who are members of the pig and poultry clubs. She already has received returns of \$11.36 from her project and has 25 pullets and 18 cockerels left.

The Public Service commission has granted to the Portland Railway, Light & Power company a horizontal increase of 15 per cent on all of its freight rates on its interurban lines, with the exception of the rate on wood, which remains unchanged. It is understood that the road was particularly desirous of securing the increase in the rate on wood.

Bandon has quarantined against Marshfield to prevent spread of scarletina in that city, and the Bandon health officers declare several school teachers who visited in Marshfield during the holidays will be quarantined promptly upon returning to Bandon and kept under surveillance for 10 days. Three new cases have occurred in Marshfield within the past two days.

Heppner celebrated New Year's day under sunny skies and with a temperature of 65 degrees. Thus far the winter has been mildest on record and stockmen are jubilant. Grass on the ranges is still growing, and indications are that Morrow county will plant the greatest acreage in her history this winter. Some uneasiness is felt over the fruit crop, as many of the trees are almost ready to bloom. It is feared that freezing weather later may prove disastrous.

Union County went over the top in the Red Cross membership drive by a margin of at least 500. Belated returns coming in from outlying precincts will bring the total above the quota of 5000 for the county by 500 or 600. General Manager Kiddle has dismissed his workers.

State Highway Engineer Nunn has gone to Clatsop county to take charge of the work on contracts on the Lower Columbia River Highway recently taken from the Warren Construction company. What mode of procedure will be followed in completing this work has not been stated.

County Agent Jay L. Smith is an ardent advocate of greater hog production in Coos county, and in support of his contention calls the attention of ranchers to the fact that they are losing money by not utilizing wheat and corn in greater amounts. Coos county has drawn several first prizes for corn in shows for 1917, and Agent Smith says producers can command high returns if more hogs were raised.

Between 1500 and 2000 educators, representing every county in the state, attended the sessions of the 17th annual meeting of the Oregon State Teachers' association, which opened at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning in the Lincoln High School auditorium. Both morning and afternoon sessions were devoted to the consideration of the business of the association. The programs for Friday and Saturday were devoted to addresses by prominent educators and the discussion of educational topics.

CONQUEST AND KULTUR

From all this it appears that the Monroe doctrine cannot be justified. . . . So it remains only what we Europeans have described as an inspiration. And so it remains only what we Europeans almost universally consider it, an impertinence. With a wailing cry they try to make an impression on the world and succeed, especially with the stupid. The inviolability of the American soil is invoked without there being at hand the slightest means of warding off the attack of a respectable European power.—Johannes Volpert, *Alldeutsche Blatter*, Jan. 17, 1903.

Usually regarded as a modern disease, appendicitis was known in Egypt more than 5,000 years ago and was accurately described in records that still exist.