

YANK TELLS OF SOLDIER'S LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

One of Pershing's Veterans Relates His Experiences.

ALL EAGER FOR THE FIGHT

Sergeant, Wounded in France and Invalided Home, Gives an Account of the Trip of First American Contingent to France and of Their Entry into the Trenches—Describes Artillery Fire and Gas Attacks.

Sergt. Floyd M. Clark, wounded in France and invalided home to Fort McHenry hospital, told the story of the men General Pershing led to France as the vanguard of the American expeditionary force.

"I enlisted at Fort Slocum, New York, and in June, 1914, I went down to Galveston and was signed in with the Twenty-second Infantry. It was on the way down that I got acquainted with 'Duck' Smith. He's on the books now as Sergt. Merle C. Smith, from Dubois, Pa., which is out near Pittsburg. But he's got such short legs that we just naturally called him 'Duck.' He's the best pal a man ever had. He's got a heart of gold and from the very first we've shared and shared alike. And he is sure some talented. He's a natchural born musician. Boy, you should hear 'Duck' blow a bloody cornet. He can play any instrument he can pick up. It don't make any difference what the instrument is, give him five minutes and he begins to get real music out of it.

"He's always got a guitar with him and he knows all the music there is, all them deep Spanish songs you hear down on the border and a whole string of 'Blues.' By the time he gets through with the Fritzes he'll know all the music in Europe, too.

"Along in 1916 they organized the Thirty-fifth regiment and 20 of us were taken from each company of the Twenty-second, to help make it up. Then, in the spring of 1917, we were transferred to the Eighteenth regiment and I went in the headquarters company. I was made a sergeant just before we started across.

"In May the word went around that we were at war strength and from that time on we were getting the hot news every day that we were going across, or that we were going to San Francisco or some other place.

"Just about then old Fritz sends one over. You know you can hear them comin', and you can tell just about where they will land from the sound. I know this shell was going to come near for it sounded loud. I had kept my uniform pretty clean and when I heard that shell, I sure did hate to throw myself flat in that mud we were standing in.

"Well, I took a chance and didn't fall flat. I bunkered down and so did the rest of the bunch. The shell exploded right over our heads about 25 feet in the air, I guess. Something hit me on the head and knocked me over and my tin hat fell off.

ment was sent up in the first relief. My battalion was chosen from the regiment. We had about 5,000 men going up the first time. We took up a front about a mile long.

"Well, there was some groaning when we found what kind of trenches they had handed us. They had mud up to your shootops and they were lousier than a cuckoo. We went in at night and spent the first few hours getting our dugouts fixed up.

"This first trip in the trenches was only for ten days. But we were glad to get the rest, when it came time for us to be relieved. We wanted the chance to get a bath.

"Our trenches were only 500 yards away from the Fritzes and we could see them line. During our stay in there we got a chance to try some shooting, but there wasn't much doing except the shelling from the German trenches. In our battalion in that stay we lost sixteen men killed and wounded. Two of them were killed by sniper's bullets and the other seven by artillery fire.

"Lose Their Curiosity. "It's a funny thing about that shelling. About the first day we were ducking all the time. Whenever we heard a shell come over we all waited to know where it struck. After about the first day we got so used to it that we'd never even look around to see where it went. Most of the shelling was done early in the morning or late in the evening. At first, the most of us had the shakes somewhat. You felt all quivery all over and you couldn't stop, no matter what you thought about.

"Our dugouts had little French stoves in them. Then French stoves ain't no good. Of course, we used 'em and sometimes they did pretty well. The trouble was that the smokestack has to be run out the door of the dugout, and when the wind blows that way it blows the smoke right back into the trench.

"It was pretty wet and uncomfortable a lot of the time, but, boy, I want to tell you, I'd rather be in the trenches any day than drilling.

"The only time I ever came real near to getting hurt on that first trip up was the evening before the day we were relieved. A wagon drawn by mules was brought up to take away a lot of eats we hadn't used and I had a detail of seven men out to load the wagon. We had the wagon almost loaded when the shells began to come over. But they were going over our heads and we didn't pay much attention.

"Then Major Duke came along in the trench not a great ways from us and he yelled out: 'You boys better come out of that. One of those shells will fall short pretty quick.'

"Well, we only had a few more boxes to put on and I says, 'Throw on the rest lively, boys, and beat it.'

"Just about then old Fritz sends one over. You know you can hear them comin', and you can tell just about where they will land from the sound. I know this shell was going to come near for it sounded loud. I had kept my uniform pretty clean and when I heard that shell, I sure did hate to throw myself flat in that mud we were standing in.

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HOW ENEMY WON AT ST. QUENTIN

Captured British Colonel Gives Description of Fight.

ESCAPES AFTER SIX HOURS

Acting Brigadier General Held Behind German Line Says—Miet—Defeated the British Fifth Army—Knocks Down Two Teuton Guards and Then Makes His Way to English Positions.

It was the British Fifth army which let the Germans through toward Amiens. For a time the facts were somewhat obscure. Much new material has been collected, and the authorities are now able fairly accurately to reconstruct its opening stages. One of the most valuable stories is that supplied by a colonel, acting brigadier, who was temporarily taken prisoner and had the unique experience of watching the German advance from the German side for a period of more than six hours.

General Gough, who was in command of the Fifth army, was relieved of this command as an unsuccessful general, but subsequent information about the battle does not show that any specific charges can be brought against him.

From the facts now known it is astonishing, not that the Fifth army failed to hold the Germans, but that they were able to resist as they did. The men fought like lions. Rear guards died where they stood to save the rest of their comrades, and the retreat this army accomplished has been described as a "miracle."

Line Held Lightly in Men. For reasons which are not disclosed the line of the Fifth army was lightly held in men, but strongly in every article of modern defense. It was the mechanical part of the defense which failed or, rather, was neutralized at the crucial moment.

It is not possible to go into very great detail, but the most serious of the minor breaks which occurred and the one which developed into the most menacing, was that in the neighborhood of St. Quentin. It was through this principally that the German forces poured. A few divisions of local reserves were thrown in, but these were soon mopped up in the fighting with superior German forces.

In the reports of the battle it will be noted that the reserves came to the rescue of the retreating Fifth army. This was not a chance happening decided upon after the battle began. The battle dispositions of the allied armies provided general reserves for the Fifth army. In point of fact, these reinforcements were delayed in coming up, which makes the work done and the retreat of the Fifth army all the more remarkable.

It was between the break-through by General Von Lutifer at St. Quentin and the arrival of reinforcements that the nondescript forces of engineers and laborers collected by Brig. Gen. Sandeman Carey saved the line.

Secret of German Success. The secret of the German success against the Fifth army was the extraordinarily heavy mist which developed on the morning of the attack. The British knew the attack was in preparation, and in anticipation of it had developed a most elaborate system of traps and cross-fire arrangements, which were considered sufficient to shatter any advance by the enemy.

What perhaps the British did not know was the exact moment when the attack would be delivered, and what they could not foresee was the extraordinary weather conditions which prevailed.

The British line of defense consisted first of all of a line of outposts; inside of this was the carefully sighted battle zone, at the boundary of which was the line of resistance. What happened on the day of the attack was that the Germans effected a surprise by advancing right up to the outposts without being seen and by terrific weight of numbers rushed the battle zone in which the carefully planned cross-fire which was to wither up the enemy forces could not be used to effect on account of the blinding mist.

The personal story of the above-mentioned brigadier who was captured temporarily by the Germans is probably one of the most thrilling of the war. When the brigadier had watched for some time in admiration, as he admits, the silent clockwork advance of the Germans he began to consider what a pity it was at such a crisis that an able-bodied man should remain in forced idleness.

THE PASSING OF A COMRADE



When a soldier goes to that other "Over There" his fighting courages mark his last resting place with a manly tenderness that would touch the mother's heart. Only a few stones to outline the spot, a rude cross with his name rudely carved thereon, and his hat, but they express a tender care that atirs.

CLEVER TEUTON WOMAN STEALS BIG FORTUNE

Clerk's Wife Duped, Officials and Populace Out of Millions of Marks.

Newspapers received at Amsterdam from Breslau, Germany, tell of a woman, whose criminal career created a sensation throughout the empire, being sentenced to six years' imprisonment for fleecing millions from the credulous. The court in sentencing the woman said her punishment would have been made more severe if it had not been for the fact that her dupes were also criminals, expecting to profit by violations of the law.

The woman now serving her time is the wife of a humble clerk employed in a municipal department. His name is Gohln. The woman is forty-eight years old, but still handsome and of striking figure. She was for years a regular first nighter. She would appear bedecked with diamonds worth a million marks. When her daughter was married recently she paid 100,000 marks for her trousseau.

When the war broke out Mrs. Gohln branched out as a contractor. At least she claimed she had war contracts obtained for her by influential friends. On the strength of these war contracts she borrowed money by the millions. Her "business" grew in leaps and bounds. She finally went to Berlin, where she found admission into the highest circles. Here the number of her dupes increased rapidly.

At last some of her creditors became suspicious and notified the police. Her home was raided and a lot of incriminating evidence was found. It was proved that the woman had not only taken money from dupes, but also had bribed a number of officials to award contracts to her which enabled her to find more dupes.

Mrs. Gohln was found guilty of fraud in 11 cases, of bribing officials in five cases, and also of violation of the lottery law.

GUARDS CHRIST'S BIRTHPLACE

British Soldier Writes of His Service in Bethlehem.

From Bethlehem a youthful British soldier writes to a friend in London: "I am on guard at present, and it is a great honor. I can tell you, that I am guarding the birthplace and manger of our Lord. It is a wonderful place, and I never thought when I used to read about it that one day I should stand and guard it.

NEW WAY FOR WANDERERS

County, Lacking a Poor Farm, Interns Them Now.

Clackamas county, Ore., has no poor farm. Times heretofore it has got rid of itinerant dependents who wandered into the county by various means, but the war has opened a new scheme to its frugal officials.

A demented man, found wandering near here, carrying a book in which he was jotting down plans of a Chautauqua park, has been haled into court as a possible German spy, and as he admits being a German he has been turned over to the federal authorities for internment till the end of the war.

Prehistoric Animal Found.

The bones of a monster prehistoric animal are being unearthed in the excavation for a building in the downtown district of Denver. The teeth, found almost intact, are 18 inches long. A femur bone and parts of the skull that the animal was several times as big as the largest elephant.

U. S. NAVY IS BIG HELP TO BRITAIN

Naval Expert Gives High Praise to Americans for Their Cooperation.

American naval aid has been of the greatest help to the British fleet, says Archibald Hurd, the naval expert, writing in the Daily Telegraph on the new situation in the North sea resulting from the Zebrugge and Ostend raids, the extension of British mine fields and the generally increasing naval pressure against Germany.

"When the war is over," he says, "the nation will form some conception of the extent of the debt which we owe the American navy for the manner in which it has co-operated, not only in connection with the convoy system, but in fighting the submarines.

"If the naval position is improving today, as it is, it is due to the fact that the British and American fleets are working in closest accord, supported by an immense body of skilled workmen on both sides of the Atlantic, who are turning out destroyers and other craft for dealing with the submarines, as well as mines and bombs.

"The Germans can have a battle whenever they want it. The strength of the grand fleet has been well maintained. Some of the finest battleships of the United States navy are now associated with us. They are not only splendid fighting ships, but they are well officered and manned.

"If Admiral Beatty were asked his opinion there is no doubt of what he would say of the value of the aid which the United States has given in this respect. The conditions under which the Germans would engage us, therefore, are less favorable than two years ago."

ATE TOO MUCH WHEAT

So a Pigeon Fancier Sold the Whole Flock.

Because of the war, E. D. Zellner of Junction City, Kan., is giving up one of the most unique and profitable businesses in the city. Mr. Zellner for years has owned one of the biggest pigeon farms in the state, raising squabs for the Chicago and New York markets, where they commanded \$1 each. However, the pigeons would thrive on nothing but wheat, and Mr. Zellner's grain bill ran from \$30 to \$150 per month. Rather than feed wheat to pigeons, when it is needed so badly for the allies, Mr. Zellner is closing out his business and has shipped one lot of 1,000 homers to Boston by express. The cost of transportation was 6 cents per pigeon.

FARM BOY A GIRL

Looked Strong and Was Hired to Work.

Last summer a Garden City, Kan., farmer met Linn Overbrook, a strong looking eighteen-year-old lad, who wanted a job threshing. After that was over Linn had become so well liked by the farmer and his wife that they offered him an all-winter job at \$10 a week. He accepted.

All went well until a few days ago, when Sheriff Oil Brown came to the farm and told Linn: "I know all about you." Linn confessed, "She" had run away from home. Mabel was taken to town and held until some one came for her. Then she was taken back to her Nebraska home.

Night Work on Farms.

Wartime farming methods used in England to bolster up food production are to be employed in Lake County, Ind., and the stillness of the Kankakee valley will soon be broken by the noise of tractors and the glare of headlights. John A. Brown, a Gary and Crown Point banker, today announced he would employ day and night forces on his 6,000-acre ranch below Lowell. Fully one-half of this will be reserved for corn, with rye supplanting wheat. The ranch also houses 500 head of cattle.

WANT TO MAKE THEIR OWN MUSIC

Soldiers "Over There" Demand Musical Instruments.

HERE'S CHANCE TO "HORN IN"

Behorn the Amateur Cornetist and Send His Machine to France—Calliopes, Pipe Organs and Grand Pianos Would Not Be Appropriate Donations and the Slide Trombone Has Its Limitations.

Behorn, the apartment house air-shaft cornetist, and send his musical instrument to the borders of No Man's Land. Here is a chance for patriotic sacrifice which, at the same time, will confer a great relief on the neighbors and brighten the life of some musically-inclined Yankee soldier in the trenches or the billets or the rest camps of the war zone.

There is a great demand for musical instruments by the soldiers over there. This is the word received here from the work council of the Y. M. C. A. from their hundreds of secretaries and workers in the war zone. Of course there is music there, regimental bands, field music, talking machines and pianos in the "Y" huts, but the soldiers who have the yearning do not want self-starting music. They want the kind they can "push out" themselves, no matter how bad it is, as long as it expresses them.

Would Make His Own Music. Music's charms are notorious for their soothing effects, and one can imagine the depression of a soldier, who has nothing of a musical outfit but a pair of ear-drums, when he wishes to hide away with a saxophone, to sport and sound from it. That man is not going to be satisfied with the best band music, the finest phonograph records or the piano playing of other persons who may be experts, not as long as he yearns to blow, scrape or pound out notes or sounds of his own manufacture.

Anyone who has listened to a beginner, under the pretext of practicing, groan with a base horn, sob-rippingly with a slide trombone or cry aloud with a blast-hat alto horn, has realized that the performer wasn't playing, but was relieving his feelings. Well, soldiers with a weakness for music have that same desire to relieve their feelings after the strain of battle or monotony of camp. And they need some instruments by which they can generate musical noises which will soothe their own savage breasts and at the same time put their comrades in such fighting mood that they are ready to sweep the Huns into the Rhine.

Soldiers enjoy teasing tunes from solo instruments, the Y. M. C. A. men report, and it is up to sound-shatterers here to provide the apparatus. They have "come across" with bank notes, why not part with their high notes? The "Y" will pass them along to the yearners.

Discrimination in Donations.

Calliopes, pipe organs, grand pianos and bass drums are hardly convenient for soldiers to keep in dugouts or to carry on hikes. A slide trombone would be all right for open warfare, but in a trench it could only be played sideways. At that, a trench greatly resembles an orchestra pit. Discrimination should be used as to the type as well as the size. A base horn would be suitable for a man detailed to base headquarters and it would be all right to send a soldier a French horn if he understands that language.

This does not limit the list to mouth organs, jewsharps, "sweet potatoes" and accordions. It should include reeds and small brasses. If American soldiers are to turn the scale they should be allowed to run it, also. Instrumentalists—horn in!

MEN WHO CAN HELP FARMERS

Each town, under the leadership of its most active spirits, such as its chamber of commerce or county council of defense, it self should immediately make a survey of all able-bodied men who have had farm experience and obtain pledges to spend a day or two out of each week or a week, if need be, out of the month at the periods of greatest demand, in order to help the farmers. There are many men working in the towns whose places can be taken by the women. I have in mind particularly men waiters, elevator boys, and clerks whose work can be well substituted, if the business sentiment of the town will act resolutely and persuade employers to use women temporarily in order that the men be released for farm labor as the occasion may require.—Clarence Osley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Hook Worm in Camp.

Twenty per cent of the draft men received at Camp Sevier, in South Carolina, are affected with hook worm, according to army physicians. Numerous cases are being treated. All show rapid improvement. In some camps as many as 60 men are being treated.

CLASS FOR DEAF WOMEN

They Can Sew and Are Being Taught Red Cross Work.

Seemingly sane seamstresses of sensible sewing circles sometimes say severely silly sentences.

But don't you dare make that assertion in the presence of a certain sewing circle at room 300, Mason building, Los Angeles, for although not a single member of the class would hear you, they would all understand what you said.

The society referred to is the Auxiliary of the Red Cross for the Hard of Hearing, a class which has just been organized entirely of deaf women who are engaged in making sponge wipes, compresses and other surgical necessities for the Red Cross.

Do Your Best. To do less than our best any day is to lose our efficiency.