

HOW OUR HEROES LOOK

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PORTRAITS OF MEDAL WINNERS BY J. C. CHASE FOR THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AMERICA IN THE GREAT WAR

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

HARK! Now the city bells are ringin'. Hark! Now the drums begin to beat. Look! Where the banners all are swingin'. Who's that marchin' up the street? See! Where the flag is flyin' proud-est. Look! Where the hats are tossin', too.

Hark! Where the cheerin' is the loudest, who's that steppin' into view? The answer is "The Marines"—the lines are from Joseph C. Lincoln's spirited tribute to the "Leathernecks," which was written shortly after they opened the ball in the first week of June, 1918, by stopping the victorious Germans in the Chateau Thierry sector, forty-odd miles from Paris. "You know the rest, in the books you have read"—how the marines not only stopped the selected German shock troops short, but went right at 'em and licked 'em to a frazzle. The marines were the whole thing then for quite a while. They were the first Americans to get into action on their own account and the Chateau Thierry story was spread broadcast over the world for the sake of its heartening effect on our allies. But this marine business is old stuff now.

Don't mistake me. The marines have not changed. And there are no better fighting men in the known world. For 100 per cent all around efficiency they have no equal. The military experts of all nations will tell you so. For one thing, they're always equipped, always ready, always backed up and asking, "Where do we go from here?" They're the oldest branch of the United States military service and Uncle Sam has used them so long as a sort of international M. P. that they really know their business. Before the great war, you know, they were the fighting men on our battleships, and when they were put ashore anywhere—it made no difference where—pretty soon Washington got this stereotyped message: "The marines have landed and have the situation well in hand." Add to this their unofficial motto, "What we have, we hold," and you have a pretty good line on this picked outfit of fighting men.

This marine stuff is old stuff for an entirely different reason—for two reasons. One is that there was a lot of fighting between June 1 and November 11, 1918. The other is that we are beginning to hear all about it. The point is: While the marines kept right on adding to their laurels and the regulars ran 'em a dead end, the common, every-day American soldier—branches of the service—also got into action and staged some thrillers himself. National Guard, National army, air service—it made no difference. As fighting men they proved they were worthy to stand and to charge alongside regulars and marines—and words can say no more. They have their own place in the sun and they won it in the only way a fighting man can win it. You know how.

The German high command at the Spa in Belgium during the war studied the American soldier systematically and thoroughly, and formally gave its conclusions into the official records. Major von Rundstedt, on General Ludendorff's staff, has made public some of these official conclusions. One is: "The Americans are very brave and active, but highly temperamental." He explained this by saying that with the Americans fighting was a good deal of a sporting proposition, and that they wanted to get all the adventure and excitement possible out of it. Besides, he was impossible to tell what the Americans would do. They might attack anywhere and any time. They might get tired sitting around or they might peep at the mosquitoes or feel mad because their rations had not come up—then they would be apt to take it out on the enemy. Major von Rundstedt, asked to name offhand some of the American divisions considered by the high command as among the best, replied:

"The division which you call 'the Rainbow' in the Sky' (Forty-second), and that division made up of half of marines (Second, regulars); also the Twenty-eighth (Pennsylvania National Guard), and the First (regulars)."

When the high command records were examined these divisions were also found included among the most effective: Thirty-second (Michigan and National Guard), Twenty-sixth (National Guard, Illinois, Prairie), and Thirty-seventh (National Guard, Ohio).



PVT. H. J. DEVEREAUX



CORP. WALTER E. GAULTNEY



LIEUT. PHILIP BENSON

CORP. MISZCZYSLAW BROCKI

unit that got a chance at the Hun showed it was made up of heroes.

How do these incredible young fighting Americans look and act and have their being? Why, you know. You see these heroes every day—either actual or potential. They are coming back by the thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands. They look very much as they did when they went overseas—the able-bodied ones. You can see changes, if you look close, but in the main they are the same smiling, jolly, clean, decent, good-natured American boys. No wonder the French loved them for their looks and their ways, wondered if it was possible that they really could fight and went delirious with ecstasy when they put the Hun on the run and kept him going!

Well, the generations to come, who cannot see these American heroes in the flesh, will have the chance to see a few of these heroes in official portraits.

Joseph Cummings Chase, well-known portrait painter, who went overseas in October on a special mission for the War college, has returned. He brought with him 142 portraits, including a complete set of likenesses of the American generals overseas—save four, which he will be compelled to paint here. There are 72 portraits of generals, 50 of privates, "noncoms" and lieutenants who performed especially noteworthy service; 20 are pictures of officers of various grades. Mr. Chase was selected by the War college to paint these portraits, which are to be incorporated into the official history of America's participation in the great war.

Doubtless the generals and other officers of high rank are all imposing in looks, but their portraits have been published before. It is quite likely popular interest in these official portraits will run largely toward those of the fighting men. Somebody said: "No army is bigger than its 'buck privates.'" He said something.

The four portraits here reproduced out of 18 at hand are the selection of the etcher and not of the writer; so it is clear that reproduction quality and not the record of the soldier determined the choice. Yet this choice, haphazard as to deeds, shows clearly the marvelous qualities of the American soldier. Here is what the four did, in brief:

Lieut. Philip Benson, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Aero Squadron.—During the last three weeks of the fighting Lieutenant Benson made trips nightly over German towns, dropping hundreds of bombs and fired thousands of rounds of ammunition into Hun supply trains. Of the pursuit group to which he belonged, only two pilots remained alive. His father is a well-known New York architect, and his uncle is the famous painter, Frank Benson. Work like this requires a different sort of courage from that of the charge in the heat of battle. Let your imagination go along with this aviator, alone in the heavens at night over the enemy country, and make your own estimate of this city boy, well-bred, educated and refined and of native American stock. Keep in mind, too, that aviators have to be just about 100 per cent perfect mentally and physically, and in a sense are volunteers.

Corporal Walter E. Gaultney, Eleventh Infantry, Fifth Division.—Corporal Gaultney was picked out by his commander as an example of his finest type of soldier. Gaultney was wounded; that couldn't stop him. Alert, ingenious, speedy, heedless of personal danger, he went at the Hun like Samson with the well-known jaw bone—only this young Samson's jaw bone was that nice long trench knife you see strapped along his pack. Just what this young fellow did is not told; evidently he is a natural-born fighter and the regular army training has made him pretty nearly 100 per cent efficient as an all-around fighting man.

Private H. J. Devereaux, Company M, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Infantry, Thirty-second Division.—When his company crossed the River Ourcq and captured the Bois Pelger, the corporal of his squad fighting beside Private Devereaux was wounded by machine gun fire. The corporal fell to the ground and the enemy continued to fire on the wounded man. Mad clear through, Devereaux sprinted across the open and, single-handed, attacked and put the machine gun out of action.

Greatest Feat of War.

It is also known that Chase has painted a portrait of Sergt. Alvin C. York of Pall Mall, Fentress county, Tenn., Company G, Three Hundred and Twenty-eighth Infantry, Eighty-second division. It is to be hoped that the painter did a first-class job, for York's exploit was probably the greatest individual feat of the war. York, then corporal, on October 8, 1918, killed 20 Germans, captured 132 prisoners, including a major and three lieutenants, put 35 machine guns out of business, and thereby broke up an entire battalion which was about to counterattack against the Americans on Hill 223 in the Argonne sector, near Chatel-Chehery. He outfought the machine gun battalion with his rifle and automatic pistol. There were seven other Americans with York, but it was York's fight and but for him not a man of them would have come out alive except as prisoner.

Moreover, the man and his home and his surroundings are intensely interesting, being entirely out of the ordinary. Here are a few outstanding facts:

He was born December 13, 1886, stands 6 feet and tips the scales at 205 pounds. He is red headed. He is a dead shot—absolutely sure death with either rifle or automatic; in the course of his fight he killed a German lieutenant and seven men who charged him from a distance of 20 yards. He is a fighter who gets cooler and cooler as the danger grows.

He used to drink, gamble and swear. He quit in 1915 and joined the Church of Christ and Christian Union, of which he is second elder and singing leader. He was a conscientious objector until convinced by Capt. E. C. B. Danforth at Camp Gordon that the Bible proved it his duty to fight. He believes in a personal God and looks upon his successful exploit as a miracle. "Blessed is the peacemaker," he says.

He is a farmer and blacksmith and provides for his mother, one brother and three small sisters; the other six brothers and sisters are married. His forebears for generations were Tennesseans. When York landed the other day the Tennessee society took possession of him and tried to make him feel that New York city was his.

Of course York was having the time of his life, yet really, you know, he was regretting that he wasn't home to lead the singing at the Possum Trot spring revival.

And at the Possum Trot revival, in the valley of which Pall Mall, with its 20 houses, is the crossroads metropolis, York's neighbors were prouder over the fact that he had "kept straight" than over what he had done to the Hun. Besides, while Alvin was "all right," God had had him in charge since the day he enlisted. "It wasn't Alvin," said Grace Williams, who is waiting for him, "it was the hand of God."

Which reminds us of the first words of the Hun major captured by York. "British?" he asked. "American," said York. "God Lord!"



IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR JULY 6

CHURCH: ITS LIFE AND WORK.

LESSON TEXTS—Acts 2:1-4, 37-47; I Thess. 5:11-15.

GOLDEN TEXT—Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.—Eph. 5:25.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—I Cor. 12:4-31; Eph. 1:15-23, 4:11-16; 5:25-27; Rev. 17:10-20.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Our Father's House.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Why We Should Love the Church.

INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—What the Church Does for Us and What We Should Do for the Church.

SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—The Spirit and Mission of the Church.

I. The Origin of the Church (Acts 2:1-4).

Fifty days after the passover, while the 120 men and women were "with one accord in one place" the Holy Spirit came upon them and baptized them into one body (I Cor. 12:13). Thus was begun the body called the church. The church had its beginning at Pentecost. The believers were united around the resurrected Christ as head.

II. Conditions of Entrance into the Church (Acts 2:37-41).

After the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, Peter witnessed to the death and resurrection of Christ. Through this testimony the Spirit convicted these Jews of their sins. In their desperate need they cried out: "What shall we do?" Peter's reply indicated the steps into the church.

(1) Belief in Jesus Christ as Savior. His argument proved that Jesus whom they had crucified was the Messiah.

(2) Repentance. Every one entering the church should repent; should change his mind and attitude toward Jesus Christ.

(3) Be baptized. The divinely appointed method for the public confession of Jesus Christ is baptism. Those who have believed in Jesus Christ should receive this tangible ordinance, which symbolizes our identification with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

(4) Receive remission of sins. Those who have been united to Jesus Christ have all their sins removed; there is an entire cancellation of guilt. They have a standing before God which is absolutely perfect.

(5) Receive the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the birthright of every regenerated soul who is obedient to Christ.

III. A Portrait of the Primitive Church (Acts 2:42-47).

1. They continued in the apostles' doctrine (v. 42). Instead of being taught by the scribes they are now taught by the apostles. They have turned away from their blind guides and are following new ones.

2. They continued in fellowship around Christ as the head (v. 42). The breaking of bread illustrated the oneness of believers in Christ. As all partook of one loaf, so all believers are one in Christ.

3. They continued in prayer (v. 42). The ideal church is a praying church.

4. They had a community of goods (vv. 43-45). They had all things in common. Those that had possessions sold them and distribution was made to every one as he had need.

5. They were filled with praise (v. 46). All those who have had the experience of the life of God being poured into them are filled with praise, and gratitude must express itself.

IV. The Mutual Duties of Officers and Members of the Church (I Thess. 5:11-15).

1. Mutual intercourse for comfort and edification (v. 11). There is no caste in the church of Jesus Christ; it is a brotherhood.

2. Proper recognition should be given to those who are engaged in spiritual service (v. 12). Only as the grace of God abounds do men and women turn from their secular to spiritual interests. Those who thus respond to the call of God should have popular recognition.

3. Proper respect should be given to church officials (v. 13). While we should not give worship to those who are leaders in the church of Christ we should give them proper respect. One of the signs of the degeneracy of the age is a lack of respect shown Christian ministers.

4. Live in peace (v. 13). Although there is in the church a diversity of interests and personalities the love of Christ should so fill us that there be no strife in his body.

5. Warn the disorderly (v. 14). As Christ chose twelve and one was a devil, so in the church there will be those who are disorderly. All such should be lovingly warned.

6. Be not retallative (v. 15). Although others wrong us we should not retallate.

Owner Gets Spoons.

Ft. Wayne, Ind.—Nine years ago Dayton Abbott, chief of police, and his brothers conducted a hotel at Bluffton. The chief received a parcel post package containing a dozen teaspoons recently, accompanied by a note which was signed by a woman: "I am sending you these spoons. I stole them from you nine years ago. I don't want the spoons to keep me out of heaven. That's why I am sending them back to you." Chief Abbott does not remember any one by the name signed to the note.

RESTORATION WORK IN RUINED FRANCE

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN MAY FIND OPPORTUNITIES THERE.

DEVASTATION WAS APPALLING

Varenne and Sermaize Cited as Examples of the Way in Which the Germans Willfully Destroyed Thousands of Towns.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—Scores of inquiries are being made in Washington by professional and business men as to future opportunities for American enterprise in France, and in the rebuilding of the devastated territories. It seems probable that if France cannot supply from her own population engineers enough and enough men of the professions and trades generally to do the work of reconstruction, the United States may bear a considerable part of the work.

Many of the inquiries have come from discharged soldiers, officers and men, for the American Expeditionary forces contained both in the commissioned and non-commissioned ranks many men of a training which fits them for the work which is ahead.

Thousands of reams of manuscript have been written about the devastation in France, but no one who has not seen it can, by any chance, have a realizing sense of what this devastation is. It is appalling, and a large part of it is devilish because it was caused by devilish intent without the slightest excuse of the necessities of warfare. When one has seen the terrible ravages in the fair land of France he readily can understand why the French people today are so insistent that full reparation shall be made by Germany. Varenne an Example of Devilishness. There are some interesting if comparatively small towns in France which the Germans destroyed without excuse. These towns have high places in history. They contained priceless monuments of the past which today are level with the dust. Monuments can be rebuilt but they are not the same monuments, nor have they in them the interest which centers on things sacredly ancient.

Take the town of Varenne, for instance. It is close to the Argonne Forest. Varenne five years ago was a thriving place with several beautiful public buildings, a compellingly beautiful church, while all about the place was the nimbus of history. Today the only thing left in Varenne is the shell of an apothecary shop. The sign still is over the door. It is the only sign left in Varenne except the sign of German desolation.

Varenne is known to every reader of history as the place where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were arrested while on their flight from Paris to get out of the hands of the Revolutionists. Louis and Marie were more than one-half their way on the journey to safety when in Varenne an astute innkeeper recognized the party and caused their arrest, an arrest which later led to the death of both by the guillotine in what is now the place de la Concorde, Paris.

I passed through Varenne last fall in the wake of the advancing army. Even amidst desolation one occasionally can find something to arouse a sense of humor. I saw a number of men disappearing down a ladder which led to a deep hole in the ground underneath the demolished apothecary shop. I wondered what they were doing down there. In a few minutes I found out. It seems that in the subterranean regions of this drug store the men had discovered something which occasionally is found in drug stores in dry territory in the United States. Apparently the Germans had overlooked it, and if my eyes did not deceive me the boys had made some find.

What the Huns Did to Sermaize.

There is the town of Sermaize in France. The Germans did everything that they could to Sermaize and everything that they could means that they entirely demolished it. It was a place of 5,000 inhabitants, beautifully laid out and with one of the most wonderful churches in all France. When war had done its worst to Sermaize there was nothing left of it except the church tower, which was punctured with shell holes. It may be that there were older churches in France, probably there are, but when one reads as I did the date 1083 on the facade of a sanctuary he realizes that he is in the presence of an ancient and honorable.

Think what France has lost in the demolition of this church! Here was an edifice that had stood since the day only a few years after the conquest of England by the Norman French. It was over one hundred years old when Richard the Lionheart was fighting Saladin for the possession of the Holy Land. The winds bore to the church tower whispors of the signing of the Magna Charta. It was four centuries old when Columbus set foot on the island of San Salvador.

Mention has been made of only two towns which today are in a state of desolation like unto that of the Cities of the Plain. There was no excuse for the destruction of these fair old towns of France. Only two have been named. Multiply the two by 1,000 and the multiplicand will give you close to the number of villages the destruction of which France mourns today, and which Americans may help to rebuild.