

WORK OF THIRTIETH DIVISION REPORTED

Valiant Fighting at Bellicourt Is Described.

Part of the Second American Army Corps Fighting With the British—Took Strongest Point on Hindenburg Line.

London, Nov. 30.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Operations of the Second American army corps with the British armies south of Valenciennes, which won from Field Marshal Haig high commendation, are described in a semi-official statement now issued. The second corps was composed of the 27th division consisting of New York national guard troops; and the 30th division, consisting of troops from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and the District of Columbia. The corps was commanded by Maj. Gen. G. B. Read. In complimenting the corps upon its work in the fighting in the British sector near Le Cateau and Bapaume, Marshal Haig said in a message to the corps: "I am proud to have had you in my command, the deeds of the 27th and the 30th American divisions will rank with the highest achievements of the war."

The second American corps was operating in conjunction with the British Third and Ninth corps and had crossed the Hindenburg line at what is described as "perhaps its strongest point" near Bellicourt. The American corps was called upon on October 5 to take part in a three-day advance against the line extending from Valenciennes through Solesmes and La Cateau to Guise. This line ran along in front of the Sambre canal. To the American division was given a task of pushing a salient south of Le Cateau, a strongly armed position, and holding the line until the flanking division moved up.

On the night of October 3 the 30th division took over from two Australian divisions a front of about three miles. The operation began on October 3 in conjunction with the British and French on either side of the Americans. The American attack was made behind a rolling barrage laid down by British and Australian artillery and using tanks. In spite of the enemy counter-attacks, little resistance was encountered and by noon the 30th division had advanced three miles and the villages of Brancourt and Premont were captured.

Consistently, it seems, in these operations the American division, was again at the apex of the advance," says the statement.

The attack was resumed on the following morning and met with only minor resistance, entering Busigny and Beuigny almost without opposition. The day's advance represented four miles. The movement was resumed on October 10 when a gain of 1,500 yards was attained and the villages of Escanfort, St. Souplet and Vaux-Angny were taken.

In the three days the Americans and their allies had advanced nine miles with the delivery of nine villages and the capture of 1,800 prisoners and numerous machine guns. The Fourth division, which the second corps was a part, then stood in front of the Selle river. On a crest east of this river the Germans seemed to have prepared to make a stand. A pause was made to bring up supplies and ammunition and to strengthen the divisions. The front was shortened to 4,000 yards.

The enemy line west of the Selle river was strongly held by five divisions and by elements of six others. The attack was renewed on October 17. Rain had turned the chalky ground into a slippery footing and a thick mist made the sense of location impossible. Eleven tanks were sent across the river and the infantry started over the top behind a rolling barrage, the first wave wading the river while the engineers threw pontoons for the use of the second wave. Behind an enemy counter-barrage and machine gunners hid in shell holes under cover of the fog, the Americans drove over the crest east of the river and advanced two miles.

One American division, in conjunction with the 13th British corps, delivered an attack on the following morning, but it was held up by heavily armed machine-gun posts and repeated counter attacks supported by artillery. Obstinate resistance was encountered at the village of Ribeaupville and until the middle of the afternoon the enemy line suddenly weakened and the American advance moved on toward the Cambre canal. By October 19 the American and British forces occupied the last ridge before the canal and a period of preparation ensued. The advance had resulted in the capture of St. Martin, Rivere, Molain, Arly de Guise, Ribeaupville and Egallion. The total advance for the six days' operations was 13 miles, resulting in the capture of 3,400 prisoners.

BULGARIAN PEASANTS TRIED TO KEEP NATION OUT OF WAR

London, Dec. 14.—M. Stambulivsky, leader of the peasants' party and head of the new peasants' government in Bulgaria, was among those who sought to prevent King Ferdinand from committing Bulgaria to war on the side of the central powers.

At a conference of party leaders held at the king's palace, M. Stambulivsky spoke his mind freely, telling the king that he was leading the country to destruction, and that he would pay for his crime with his crown and perhaps with his head. To this the king replied that Stambulivsky need have no concern for the royal head, but had better take care of his own. Later Stambulivsky was imprisoned.

Surpasses All Other Presents.

The most useful and enjoyable Christmas present is the New International Encyclopedia—a life-time source of intellectual enjoyment and educational and financial benefit. Several Wilmington people have already ordered it as a holiday present for their loved ones. For prices and terms write to J. T. Norworthy, 914 Austell Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.—adv.

MAKING ILLICIT WHISKEY IS ILLEGIT BUSINESS

Western North Carolina Hive of the Industry at Prices That Are Fabulous—Many Stills.

By C. H. HITES.

Asheville, Dec. 14.—Residents of Asheville and Western North Carolina were not surprised at the statement carried recently by The Associated Press to the effect that one-third of the 2,238 illicit distilleries captured in the southeast in the past year were captured in North Carolina. People here believe that if the figures were available, it would be found that two-thirds of the 846 captured in North Carolina were located in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Four revenue officers, Mark Reed, Henry Reed, J. F. Cade and J. A. Galoway, work out of Asheville raiding moonshine stills. Never a week passes that they do not bring in from one to five of the illegal booze makers, and still the "mountain dew" appears to reach Asheville in an ever increasing quantity. The still seized by the officers are of every variety from the crude home-made appliance, with a hard or power can for a heat, to the fine copper stills, with all modern attachments.

Whiskey is reaching Asheville in such quantities, and cases of drunkenness are becoming so numerous in police court that J. Frazier Glenn, judge of municipal court, has stated time and again that it is practically impossible for officers of the law to catch the men involved, and has appealed several times to the citizens of Asheville to organize a vigilance committee for the purpose of stamping out the illegal manufacture and sale of whiskey.

Stills have been located in every conceivable sort of place, from a lonely mountain ravine to a solitary home in the smaller towns. Many moonshiners have been captured, but a large number abandon their stills and take to the woods when discovered by the officers. To the Asheville revenue honest several months was that of J. H. King, prominent Brevard hotel man, and John Dawkins, the revenue officers surprising the pair of King's big Chalmers, apparently headed for Asheville. The Chalmers was added to the cars now held for disposition of Judge James E. Boyd at the next term of federal court here.

Officials are at a loss to understand the recent increase in the manufacture and sale of blockade whiskey in this section, but attribute it largely to the high prices prevailing. Bootleggers will pay the moonshiner \$6 a quart for good whiskey, and they in turn, retail it at double that amount. This brings in so much more money than any other form of utilizing corn would bring that the officers are convinced that the farmers, many of whom have the first place, are simply dazzled by the prospect of wealth—and fall.

CANADA COMPLETES HER DEMOBILIZATION PLANS

Men to be Returned to Civil Life First Will be Those Most Needed in Industries.

Winnipeg, Canada, Dec. 14.—Plans for the demobilization of Canada's 288,304 overseas troops under a system intended to meet economic and industrial conditions have been completed and will be put into operation when withdrawal of the forces is consented to by the high command.

After considering available shipping facilities and rolling stock in Canada, the imperial ministry of shipping and the Canadian war board have concluded that the rate of return can approximate 30,000 men a month.

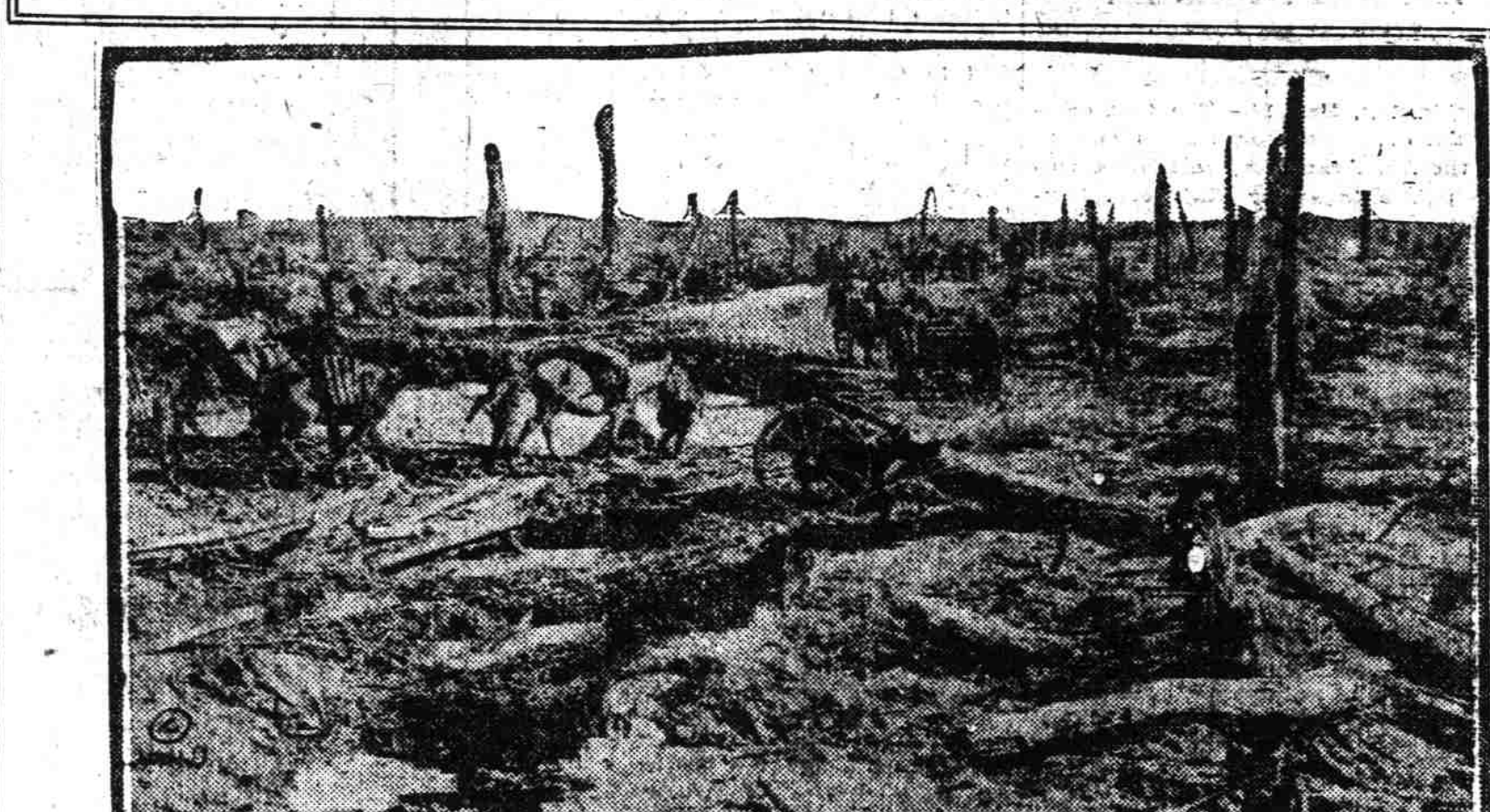
Close study of the military and economic phases of demobilization resulted in a decision to first return men whose trade classification showed there was immediate use for them in industry. Preference is to be given married men, the order of their return to be determined by the length of time they were in service and the general lines.

Classification of the troops into occupational groups by the militia department was deemed to be the best method of meeting the requirements of the labor market in the various districts. To return the men regardless of their occupation in civil life and demands of the labor market in their respective districts would work a hardship upon them as well as upon industry, officials decided.

Latest figures list 28,304 as the number of Canadian troops overseas. An estimate of how these men will be distributed among the various provinces, based on the ratio of enlistment in each province, follows: Ontario, 121,500; Quebec, 39,500; New Brunswick, 12,500; Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, 18,500; Manitoba, 35,500; Saskatchewan, 18,500; Alberta, 21,500; British Columbia, 25,000.

The problem of bringing back from England the wives and families of Canadian soldiers, estimated at 35,000 persons, has been placed with the department of immigration. They will be returned to Canada as quickly as possible, as the government desires to have the soldier's homes re-established before their arrival.

Scene of Devastation in Section of France.



Lone sections of France have been literally blasted away by heavy gun fire—first by the Germans and then by the allies when they were driving the Hun back across the Rhine. In this photograph British troops are seen advancing over ground captured only a short time before the armistice was signed. This scene is typical of hundreds of square miles of territory and gives an idea of the immensity of the task of reconstruction in France and Belgium.

America and the Future.

Christiania, Nov. 10.—Norwegian leaders in science, politics and business have formed a society for the purpose of enrolling Norway in a league of nations built upon a democratic base. Professor F. Nansen, the famous Arctic explorer and scientist, has been elected president of the society. In his introductory address, Professor Nansen said: "The dream of a fraternity of nations has suddenly come within sight. It is the goal of which one of the world's greatest statesmen, President Woodrow Wilson, is aiming. The reason why America is now able to make this Utopian dream a reality is because the nation is young and healthy; America went into the war only to make future wars impossible. It will achieve that end."

Urged "Porto Rico."

San Juan, P. R., Nov. 27.—One hundred and fifty thousand school children want the United States to name a battleship "Porto Rico." A petition setting forth this fact has been sent to President Wilson and congress.

Montreal, Strike Settled.

Montreal, Dec. 13.—The strike of policemen, firemen and other city employees was settled tonight and the men returned to work.

SAILORS LIVED UP TO THE BEST TRADITIONS

Men of U. S. Navy Conducted Themselves Better During the War Than During Peace Times.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The navy lived up to its best traditions during the war and sailors almost invariably conducted themselves better than in peace times. Despite the large number of men inducted into service from civilian life, which increased the naval force 134 per cent, there were fewer violations of navy regulations. The percentage of court-martial decreased from 1.75 to 1.17 in the navy and from 2.72 to 1.20 in the Marine Corps.

This fine record of the sailor's behavior was revealed in the annual report of Captain George R. Clark, judge advocate general, who also took occasion to commend the improved conditions in naval prisons, which he attributed largely to the efforts of the welfare league. In referring to excellent conditions at the Portsmouth, N. H., yard, the Judge Advocate General said the system there was initiated by Thomas Mott Osborne, former superintendent of the New York state prison.

Less promising results were noted of the probation system, only 55 per cent of them so released completing the period of probation against 71 per cent in the preceding year.

ENGLISH MUSEUM WEALTH IS REMOVED FROM ITS "DUGOUT"

London, Nov. 20.—Several million dollars worth of Great Britain's treasured paintings belonging to the national gallery and the national portrait gallery, have been taken out of their "dugout" in the Aldwych tube station. They were put there two years ago when the air-raid menace was at its height. Crowds of people interestedly watched these priceless works of art being removed to the light of day again.

Many valuable possessions of the Victoria and Albert museum, South Kensington, are still stored in a walk-in deep level platform of the South Kensington tube station.

AMERICAN NAVY MET BIG JOB MANFULLY

Admiral Earle's Report Gives Some Idea of Work.

One of the seemingly impossible problems was Admiral Earle's report on the work of the American navy during the war. The report states that the navy was able to provide armament for British, French, Italian, Belgian and Russian shipping. Guns of 3 to 5 inch caliber were at a premium and the demand for them was ten times greater than the existing capacity for manufacture. A total of 937 craft of all kinds, not in the regular navy, were armed between July 1, 1917 and July 1, 1918.

Gun mounts formed a separate knotty problem. The facilities created for their manufacture met all urgent needs. The Linderman Steel & Machine company, of Muskegon, Mich., the report stated, delivered 350 mounts for 4-inch guns 28 days ahead of schedule and established a record for other manufacturers.

Only brief reference was made to two of the most striking accomplishments of the bureau, the designing, building and shipping of the 14-inch (Continued on Page Two.)

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