

CHAUMONT IS A. E. F. CENTRAL IN FRANCE

General Pershing's Headquarters Now Made Known.

The City of the Haute Marne Has Been Kept Out of the Dispatches Until Now—General Pershing Lives Near By.

Chaumont, France, Nov. 20.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The little city of the Haute Marne is the home of the general headquarters of the American expeditionary forces. Until now its mention has been taboo and the whereabouts of "G. H. Q." one of the secrets of the war.

Here lives the commander-in-chief and in the buildings of the French garrison is housed the offices of the general staff and all the auxiliary organizations that go with it—the nerve center of the army. A city of normally about 15,000 inhabitants Chaumont lies on the eastern railway lines, 163 miles east of Paris. It was formerly the capital of Basse-Normandie and is now the capital of the department of the Haute Marne.

Like most of the older cities of France, Chaumont seems to have been founded on a site of strategic defensive value. It crowns a high plateau between the Marne and the Sûze and from the walls and towers of the old city is a wonderful view of the valley of the Marne, here the river being hardly as wide as the Marne canal that flows beside it between its poplar bordered banks. Northward over the narrow vale of the Sûze the view takes in a wide sweep of rolling forest crowned hills.

General headquarters were removed from Paris here in September of last year, Chaumont being selected after a careful search of available locations. It lies in the center of what was the American training area, every detail as well as the Toul sector in which the American forces first saw battle, and all the lines from Toul eastward where they were located, being within reach by motor.

The French post occupied as headquarters offices is typical of French garrisons. Three long, four-story, red tile roofed barracks form three sides of a great quadrangle facing a wide avenue. A group of lesser buildings and the customary iron fence and ornamental gates is the remaining boundary. On either gate post lies the tricolor and the Star and Stripes.

Sentries pace their posts on every hand, the quadrangle is filled with hurrying officers and orderlies and clerks, hands flash in salute bugles give their almost hourly calls for the various military events and periods of the day, staff cars and motor cycles roll in and out and now and then the centry at the gate stiffens even more rigidly and brings his piece up with more snap when a great olive drab car, shining like a yacht, slides in, the scarlet tab on the wind shield with four white stars signifying the commander-in-chief.

Frequently the general's car approaches unheeded and so swiftly that the sentry's cry of "Turn out the guard," is too late and the commander-in-chief is gone before the guard can tumble from the guard house.

Until last spring General Pershing made his residence in a large villa near headquarters. He soon found however, that so near the workshop of the army he could not have the quiet and lack of intrusion necessary to his growing responsibilities and he removed in May last to a beautiful chateau five miles from town. Here, in a great rambling castle situated in the Marne valley among groves and wide fields he now lives with his personal staff. Connected by telephone with every divisional, corps and army headquarters, his own offices in Chaumont and with Paris he did his work here when in the army.

Chaumont itself has become almost Americanized by the presence of the headquarters. Its little hotels are always crowded with officers. It has been very hospitable to the American occupation. Nearly every home with a spare room is thrown open as a billet for officers and many of the finest residences have been taken over entirely by the hundreds of messes. In many of them the officers have installed electricity and bath rooms and in some cases central heating plants and with French servants live comfortably, almost luxuriously as measured in military terms. Hundreds less fortunate or lacking in rank take their chances on whatever billet may be found in the crowded town where a bed is always at a premium.

URGES DEVELOPMENT OF JAPANESE NATIONAL LIFE

Tokio, Nov. 30.—Addressing the prefectural governors of the empire, Takejiro Tokanami, home minister in the new Hara party cabinet, indicated the other day that the government would bring about a revision of the suffrage system so as to promote constitutional government in Japan. The present suffrage in Japan is extremely limited. Local self-government, he said, also would be extended.

The minister paid a tribute to the patriotism and devotion of the allies in the present war. He said, "It is a remarkable fact that every nation has, on account of the war, enormously strengthened its national ideas. The unity and solidarity so well achieved by the allied nations have been accomplished by the virtue of individual initiative on the part of the people. The urgent need for us is that the admirable qualities inherent to our national character be fully developed through the awakening of each individual; thus will the noblest traits of our national life be perfectly realized.

What Reward Could Be Greater?

Miss Elsie Janis, who has been in France for more than six months, singing and entertaining soldiers in training camps and hospitals, says in The Red Cross magazine for October: "Every soldier, from general to doughboy, to whom I have ever sung has always been so grateful and so enthusiastic that it has made me feel that although I can't carry a gun I have been able to do my bit in my own little way. Said a little cockney to me once, when I sympathized with him on the loss of his arm, 'Lor, Juv-ye, Miss Janus, it might 'ave been worse. Oi might 'ave lost me here-ight an' 'e'dn't 'ave been able to see you, miss.' " "Could one ask for a greater reward?"

MEN IN FRANCE WILL NOT SUFFER FROM COLD

Quartermaster's Corps Has Stocked Up Adequate Clothing For Soldiers This Winter.

Tours, Nov. 14.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Mothers, sisters, and sweethearts in America need not worry about protection of their soldiers in Europe against the rigors of coming winter. The quartermaster's corps specialists in France declare to the Associated Press that the boys are better equipped than the majority of them ever were in civilian life.

Each soldier has two pairs of heavy nail, clinched and dubbed shoes which are impervious to water, five pairs of wool socks, three suits wool underwear, two complete wool uniforms, two wool O. D. flannel shirts, one short but heavy overcoat trench style, and one pair of wool knit french puttees 10 feet long.

The quartermaster's corps estimates that the average soldier in campaign wears out one pair of trousers every two months and makes provision on this basis although the normal life of a pair of breeches is six months. Every soldier has also an overseas cap that has a felt protector to pull down over his ears. He is not allowed to wear the old issue of campaign hat that his folks at home are used to seeing. He has wool gloves and one-finger leather mittens over them and each soldier is provided with at least three blankets and a waterproof slicker.

In addition to all this, every soldier on outdoor duty has a leather waistcoat to wear beneath his overcoat. This leather waistcoat is newly issued and much admired.

Apart from what the men have on them and in their possession, the quartermaster's corps in France has in well distributed stocks available for issue: Breeches and trousers, 1,504,000 pairs; wool coats, 200,000; underdrawers, 5,000,000; undershirts, 2,714,000; wool gloves, 2,960,000; leather waistcoats or jerkins, 1,068,000; mittens, 746,000; overcoats, 379,500; wool spiral puttees, 1,718,000; field shoes, 2,570,000; wool O. D. flannel shirts, 2,349,000; slickers, 633,000; heavy wool stockings, 7,807,000; blankets, 721,900. This after the quartermaster's corps in France turned over to the medical corps more than one hundred thousand blankets.

A Hint For Hays.

The gas and flame divisions will be the first to come back. Maybe Will Hays can utilize 'em.—Washington Post.

DECOY SHIPS USED TO FOOL U-BOATS

Their Activities Form An Exciting Chapter of War.

A Small Fleet Of These Vessels Operated By The British And Several Of The Hun's Undersea Craft Are Accounted For.

London, Nov. 25.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—One of the most exciting chapters of the war against German U-boats is a series of accounts of notable engagements between British decoy ships and the submarines, made public by the British admiralty. While the whole story of the part played by these decoy vessels, "mystery ships" or "Q" craft has not been revealed, it is evident that several of them were used to lure the Hun undersea craft to their destruction.

Some incidents in the campaign have already been made known, dealing chiefly with a few of the exploits of Commander Gordon Campbell as master of the decoy vessels; but others in which he and other captains participated now are available. That at least a small fleet was used in this work is evident from the fact that Campbell at different times appears as the master of the Farnborough, the Pargust, the Dupraven and the Q.5.

The Prize, another decoy ship, was commanded by Lieutenant William E. Sanders and the Stock Force by Lieutenant Harold Auten.

Stories of the encounters between these ships and the U-boats are filled with deeds of heroism and instances in which the discipline of the British navy was displayed under the trying circumstances. For many months the decoy ships heavily armed but with their guns hidden behind false bulwarks, steamed zig-zag paths in the seas which were the hunting grounds of the submarine.

In their character of lazy colliers or slow cargo craft they presented to the submarine commander an inviting object of attack but once he was well within range of the British guns, the false superstructure hiding the guns fell away and the helpless collier became suddenly transformed into a

fighting craft, bent on destruction. It was dangerous work requiring the high order of courage for the submarine must be lured near before the guns could safely begin their work. Meantime the Hun frequently had sent his torpedo home and the decoy ship was disabled, sometimes on fire and part of her crew wounded. In that condition the battle was fought and often the submarine destroyed.

"Panic parties" was one of the ruses practiced by the decoy ship's commander to coax the submarine alongside. When the mystery ship was torpedoed these panic parties took to the boats, apparently abandoning their vessel but always leaving on board another crew to man the guns and finish the submarine if it came near enough.

The first encounter mentioned by the admiralty took place in March, 1914, when the Farnborough, disguised as a collier was attacked by a submarine. The "panic party" took to the boats and when the submarine closed in to about 800 yards the Farnborough opened fire on her. The U-boat submerged and the Farnborough passed over her dropping depth-bombs. The submarine reappeared standing almost on end. Five rounds were fired into her at nearly point blank range and she went to the bottom of the sea.

Prior to that action the Farnborough had cruised throughout the entire winter without being attacked. Within a month the Farnborough coaxed another submarine near enough to sink her by gunfire. Commander Campbell later was transferred to the command of the Q-5 and in the following February, 1916, his vessel was torpedoed by a submarine which eventually approached so near that a shot from the Farnborough beheaded the U-boat's captain as he climbed out of the tower, the submarine was sunk with her conning tower open and her crew pouring out. Destroyers towed the Q-5 in and beached her. For this exploit the Victoria Cross was awarded to Campbell.

The decoy ship Pargust with Campbell in command was torpedoed on June 7, 1917, while disguised as a British merchant vessel. The submarine came within 50 yards of the Pargust which then opened fire on her with all guns. The submarine crew poured out of the conning tower and held up their hands in token of surrender, but the U-boat steamed away trying to escape in the mist. The Pargust again opened fire on her and sunk her with one man clinging to her bow as she went down. The decoy vessel was towed back to port by American destroyers. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded for this successful action.

Unrepentant.

It is rather difficult to be sorry for Germany while Germany is not sorry for anything.—Philadelphia Press.



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