



Tribune Inquiry Shows Brest Camp Is Sanitary And Men Are Well Fed

Barracks and Tents Are Waterproof, Floored and Each Has a Stove

Mattress and Five Blankets to a Man

Raised Walks Over Entire Area and No Soldier Is Found Who Complains

THERE have been grave charges made against conditions at the American embarkation camps in France. Brest has been called a "death hole," and the classification camp at St. Aignan has been condemned as the "camp of agony."

The Tribune has instructed two of its staff men in France to investigate these camps. In the following cable Wilbur Forrest describes conditions as he found them at Brest. To-morrow another Tribune correspondent will report on St. Aignan.

By Wilbur Forrest

New York Tribune Special Cable Service

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BREST, Feb. 19.—I came to Brest determined to make a fair and complete investigation of the allegations which have not only stirred America but are to-day the subject of discussion and dire forebodings on the part of nearly every commanding officer of the American army in France contemplating the homeward journey.

I arrived at Pontanezin Camp to see it as any mother's soldier son might see it to-day, while she at home visualizes him improperly fed, sleeping in mud, enduring harsh treatment and enforced labor, standing for hours in mud "thick deep" and rain, waiting for insufficient food served from "filthy ash and garbage cans," housed at night in filthy, leaking tents and barracks, with pneumonia lurking everywhere. She sees the constantly growing graveyards, where the victims are buried by scores, and perhaps, even worse, she sees her boy, in a weakened condition from wounds received in battle, enduring these hardships.

Charges Are Due to Misrepresentation

As fast as the cables can carry this message to America I want to say to American mothers, and especially the mothers of New York City and state, where boys already are beginning to come through Pontanezin camp en route home, that the allegations they are hearing to-day are exaggerated and based on misrepresentation of existing facts. I have interviewed scores of men who talked without restraint, because they believed they were talking to one who was interested in nothing more than their personal comfort.

No American soldier to whom the Tribune correspondent talked at Pontanezin Camp to-day had a complaint to offer of camp conditions, food or lodgings. About a dozen summed up the general complaints as follows: "Why don't they get enough boats over here to take us home? They have inspected and deloused us, and we have been sitting around here two weeks expecting to sail every day."

Another popular remark was: "I will be glad to leave France; I haven't seen anything but mud since I landed."

American Army Is Best Shod of All

There is mud in Pontanezin Camp. It rains almost every day during the fall and winter on the coast of Brittany, and there is mud everywhere in this region. The camp is a vast city about equally divided between brown pyramid tents and substantial wooden barracks of the same model seen in American military camps. There are main streets and side streets like those of any normal, well planned city. These streets are gravelled, yet the persistent rain combined with the traffic, especially in the main roads, inevitably creates a soupy mud which is constantly swept into the drainage ditches at the roadside.

The American army is probably the best shod army in the world, but even so the men in this camp to-day are not forced to walk in the soupy mud. Wide wooden sidewalks, elevated two feet, on either side of the main roads, carry a constant stream of dry-footed humanity. Duckboard sidewalks serve everywhere. To-day I saw an immaculate staff officer, in highly polished boots, walking on one of these main sidewalks, looking fit for any drawing room. Getting muddy is entirely optional.

None of my "private companions" growled specifically about the mud to-day. Nor was the food mentioned except upon my initiative, and then it was universally voted good, in one case the speaker declaring it was

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No Beer in New York City After April 1

Sufficient Supply on Hand for But Five Weeks, Says Brewers' President

Only Whiskey After That

Whole Country Will Be Out of Malt Beverage by May, It Is Also Declared

New York will not wait until July 1 to go dry, as far as beer is concerned. This city has only about five more weeks in which to quaff the beverage, simply because by April 1 the supply will be exhausted.

Christian W. Feigenspan, president of the United States Brewers' Association, imparted this information to local saloonkeepers as easily as possible yesterday. Saloonkeepers were free to derive whatever consolation they might from Mr. Feigenspan's added assurance that beer taps would be closed to gather rust in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and other Eastern states at the same time, and that the entire country would be out of beer by May 1.

In order to make the beer supply hereabouts last even to April 1, he said, it had been necessary for brewers to adopt a system of pooling their stocks. What there is will be doled out from the pool.

"We are pooling our interests," he said, "and hope to make the supply last as long as we can. In this way no brewery will have any advantage, and practically all will close at the same time.

"We are anxious to make the supply last as long as we can. With the country out of beer by May, you can see what it will mean. During May and June the country will be on a strictly whiskey basis until July 1. In the days of unrest that are ahead it will be dangerous to have beer drinkers switch to whiskey. The results may surprise people."

From Washington last night it was reported that the restrictions on the use of grain in the manufacture of "near beer" and other non-intoxicating beverages had been removed, after receipt of the proclamation signed at Paris by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing several weeks ago.

Ten of the biggest breweries in the country will close their doors within two weeks, it is reported. On the other hand, many breweries are ready to turn their plants to making milk products.

Fights Fire in Dress Suit

Chief Kenlon's Ballroom Garb Charms Broadway Throng

Crowds issuing from Broadway theatres at the closing hour last night found another show awaiting them. Large clouds of smoke were puffing from the five story building at 304 and 306 West Forty-second Street. Firemen who responded to the three alarms furnished thrills as they fought the flames from ladders and adjoining buildings.

The building was occupied principally by the E. Leins Piano Company. Player piano rolls and varnish made the fire difficult to suppress. The entire loss was about \$100,000.

Police reserves had hard work to handle the crowd, it was so large. Traffic on the Eighth Avenue and Forty-second Street lines was tied up two hours.

Fire Chief Kenlon and Robert H. Mainzer, honorary deputy chief, attended the fire in dress suits, having been at the firemen's ball at the Star Casino.

Refused Miss Ranger Aid

Stamford Lawyer Says He Was Consulted in Will Case

Edward J. Kenely, son of the late Michael J. Kenely, former chairman of the Connecticut Republican Committee, was the principal witness yesterday against Miss Edith F. Ranger. She is on trial before Justice Davis, in the Supreme Court, charged with substituting a carbon copy of a fictitious will of her brother, Henry Ward Ranger, the landscape artist. Mr. Kenely practises law in Stamford, Conn., and is clerk of the Connecticut Senate.

The witness said he refused to have anything to do with the matter, and told Miss Ranger a plan she proposed to him was exceedingly dangerous for everybody concerned. He said he advised her to try to obtain an annuity from the National Academy of Design, to which the bulk of the estate was bequeathed, on the ground that she was next of kin and was entitled to something. The case will be continued to-day.

\$97,700,000 Budget Bill Is Passed by the Senate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Holding its first long night session since leaders framed their programme to expedite congested money bills, the Senate late to-night passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation measure, carrying \$97,700,000. The bill now goes to conference.

Jersey Troops Enter Berlin To Guard Food

Members of 113th Regiment Are Reported Quartered in Capital of Germany

Men Are Placed in Hotels

Old First Militia of Newark Forms Nucleus of Command; Alabama Trained

LONDON, Feb. 20.—American troops have arrived in Berlin and been quartered in different hotels, says a dispatch on the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen, quoting the "Extrablatt's" foreign correspondent.

The troops are said to belong to the 113th New Jersey Regiment and their duty will be the protection of expected transports of food.

"Under-Secretary of State Braun says," the correspondent declares, "that during the negotiations at Spa and Treves the Allies refused to give Germany credit on the ground that she was unable to pay. A new agreement was reached under which Germany is to get 235,000 tons of food for \$11,833,000.

"The government is negotiating with Berlin and Hamburg banks to get the money. A million marks is obtainable by the export of German goods and other money can be obtained by the seizure of neutral and British and French bonds in private possession."

The 113th Infantry is made up of the former 1st New Jersey, 2d New Jersey and 4th New Jersey, constituting respectively the 1st, 2d and 3d battalions of the 113th Infantry. The regiment also absorbed two companies of the former 5th New Jersey. When it sailed for France last June 80 per cent of its 4,700 men came from points in New Jersey on the New York side of Hackensack, Trenton, New Brunswick and Long Branch.

Trained at Camp Aniston

Newark was the headquarters and supplied virtually all the men of the 1st New Jersey. The 2d New Jersey had half a dozen armories shared by combinations of companies and hailing from Trenton, Elizabeth, Plainfield, Somerville, Lambertville, Asbury Park, New Brunswick and Long Branch. The 4th New Jersey had its armory in Jersey City and had men from that city, Hoboken, Union Hill and Bayonne. The 5th New Jersey, of which there is a trace in the 113th Infantry, came from Passaic, Paterson, Rutherford and Hackensack.

With other New Jersey regiments they went to Camp Aniston, to be whipped into shape for modern warfare as the 29th or "The Blue and the Gray" Division. That was in September, 1917. For months they wallowed in the mud of an Alabama winter. One June day regiment after regiment filed out for the hike that had become a frequent part of their training and that was the last that Camp McClellan saw of the Blue and the Gray.

Sailed for France June 15

The 113th and its brother regiments were rolling northward on special trains. They detrained at Newport News and sailed from that port for France June 15, 1918, taking their interval in the eastward march of the home troops which had started in April with the 77th Division and been taken up by the 27th and the 78th. The 29th reached France June 27 when the American stand at Chateau Thierry was inaugurating Allied hopes.

It trained at Chassigny and Belfort. On August 8 the 113th took over a sector opposite Mulhausen in Alsace. It was a quiet bit of the front and the regiment had been sent there to get the final polish on the training that

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CLEMENCEAU, SHOT IN LUNGS, TAKES STROLL ON BALCONY, BUT HOUSEHOLD IS ALARMED

Allies Pressing Wilson to Define "Reparation"

By Frederick Moore

New York Tribune Special Cable Service

PARIS, Feb. 20.—A message of the gravest importance has been sent to President Wilson by the Allies regarding the impasse existing over the interpretation of the word "reparation."

Although the contents of the message have not been divulged to the press, it is known the European Allies are again pressing Mr. Wilson to permit them to impose a portion, if not all, of the war costs on the enemy countries, besides mere "reparation."

The situation has almost a pathetic character for France and Italy. The people have been promised relief from an overwhelming burden of taxation. But that is not all. The fear is that if the victims of the war have to bear its cost Germany will be left commercially victorious because of the havoc she has wrought.

Germany's lands and properties escaped intact. She is now pressing haste in making peace, even, I am told, using the fact that American troops across the Rhine are fraternizing with the Germans to impress the Allied statesmen with the urgent necessity for quick settlement.

Who is going to yield is now the question—Mr. Wilson or the Allied Premiers?

It is feared in some quarters that serious declines in the value of securities in Allied countries will occur if Germany is required to make reparation only and is spared the cost.

Premier Clemenceau was on the way to the Quai d'Orsay to meet Colonel House and Mr. Balfour to discuss this subject when he was shot.

Sec'y Wilson Tells How U.S. Nipped Revolt

Strike in West Not Economic But Revolutionary, Head of Labor Department Says

William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, declared last night that a determined effort to overthrow the government of this country and to establish a Soviet government had just terminated, and that this danger, in connection with the Seattle, Butte and Lawrence strikes, had been averted only by the preventive measures taken by the government to combat I. W. W. and Bolsheviki doctrines.

Speaking at the banquet of the Queens County Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Biltmore, he said: "The revolt they expected to start this month was a failure, but suppose you have large numbers of willing workers out of employment. How much effect are arguments against such philosophy going to have then?"

"We have a dangerous situation to deal with. Few realize that we have been sitting on a volcano for a number of years. Few realize the extent to which the philosophy of the I. W. W. and the Bolsheviki have reached the working people.

Effort to Revolt

"There has just terminated a strong and determined effort to bring about a revolt against the government of this country and to establish a soviet form of government. That effort was brought to naught because of the efforts made by the government. The strikes at Seattle, Butte, Lawrence and other places were not strikes of the economic kind, but were for the sole purpose of bringing about a soviet government, under which they would take possession of all property and operate it themselves. For two years the Department of Labor has been combating that philosophy.

"America is the only place where the masses have been able to work out their own destinies. In other countries those opportunities did not occur before the Great War. Improvement could only be brought about by force. Some of those coming from Europe, be-

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"Small Americans," Says Taft of League Foes

Calls on Pacific Coast Women to Use Influence to Bring Senators Into Line

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—Characterizing as "small Americans" members of the United States Senate who are opposing the covenant for a league of nations, former President William H. Taft made an appeal to-day to the women to bring their influence to bear in the Senate in behalf of ratification of the league. Mr. Taft spoke at a luncheon of the San Francisco Centre, a woman's organization.

"Certain small Americans on the floor of the United States Senate profess to see dire danger and eventual disaster to the country if we enter the league of nations, agreed upon at the Paris peace table," said Mr. Taft. "I do not use the term 'small Americans' in an invidious sense, but to imply that these gentlemen have a small view of America, the provincial selfish view that the highest duty of America is to preserve a safe, comfortable, luxurious prosperity for our own people, beyond which we have no other responsibility toward the rest of the world. The only discord I heard from certain small visioned men who have been elevated to the United States Senate."

Besides the formal message dispatched to Premier Clemenceau, President Wilson expressed his deep concern for the French Premier and hope for his rapid recovery.

To-day the George Washington is running through better weather. The course of the vessel is constantly being shortened in order to make up for the loss in time that has been experienced.

These seems to be no doubt that president Wilson will make a report to Congress on the league of nations in the form of an address, and also that he will make use of the opportunity to say goodbye to many of the members who are returning to private life. It is believed he will make some expression of appreciation of the support rendered in the war by the Congress now retiring.

It has been decided he shall make only one speech on landing—that at Boston—and orders have been issued that arrangements be made for his departure for Washington immediately after delivery of this address. He wishes to waste no time in getting back to the capital, so that he can become conversant with Congressional business before the closing hours of the session and confer with the members of the foreign committees of both houses.

The only incident to-day was a boat drill, the first thus far in the voyage. Twenty-two hundred regular army engineers piled on deck and took their stations as the bugles sounded, and then "abandoned ship."

The drill was no novelty to the President, he having taken part in one on the trip to Europe.

The warm semi-tropical day was spoiled by rain and winds, which came on in the afternoon, driving many from the decks.

Early Recovery Expected

"Similar wounds were very frequent during the war and numerous recoveries were recorded. Therefore it is hoped that unless complications arise a few days will see the patient restored."

Wilson's Ship Without News For 24 Hours

Steamer George Washington Cut Off From Wireless After Dropping Convoy

ON BOARD THE U. S. S. GEORGE WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 11 A. M. (By wireless to The Associated Press).—The steamer George Washington, on which President Wilson is returning to the United States, was in full wireless communication again to-day after having been intermittently cut off from certain communication for twenty-four hours.

After leaving the convoying torpedo-boat destroyers behind in the heavy seas Tuesday trouble developed on board the battleship New Mexico, and that vessel had to drop out of the convoy. To-day the George Washington has been proceeding alone.

The battleship North Carolina is coming up for the purpose of relaying wireless communications.

All has been going well on board the George Washington. The President has alternately worked and taken exercise.

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Passes a Restful Night, but Suffers Frequent Pain and Hemorrhages

Household Plainly Shows Its Alarm

Assassin Likely To Be Tried for Life; Premier Decorates His Chauffeur

PARIS, Feb. 20.—One of the bullets fired by the anarchist Emile Cottin, Tuesday, and which wounded Premier Clemenceau, penetrated his lungs, it was revealed by the official statement issued shortly after noon to-day.

The official statement reads: "The hemorrhage which occurred at 1 o'clock yesterday demonstrated that the bullet penetrated the lungs. An X-ray examination disclosed the precise location of the bullet.

"The general condition is satisfactory. Temperature, 98.4; pulse, 72. The nourishment is normal. (Signed) 'GOSSET, 'TUFFIER, 'LAUBRY, 'COMBE."

A bulletin issued at 6:50 o'clock this evening by the attending surgeons says: "M. Clemenceau's condition continues satisfactory. Pulse, 74; temperature, 37 centigrade (98.6 Fahrenheit)."

Household Pessimistic

It was easily discernible, however, that a more pessimistic attitude was prevailing in the Premier's household than last evening. Mme. Brabant, housekeeper for M. Clemenceau for years, seemed on the verge of collapse, and her eyes were reddened from tears, and M. Clemenceau's footman, Maurice, showed signs of a sleepless night.

"Poor old President," he remarked to The Associated Press. "But he would never heed my advice," he added pathetically.

"The Premier certainly is seriously hurt; his condition is as satisfactory as possible," Georges Mandel, Premier Clemenceau's chief clerk, is quoted as saying at an early hour this morning. The quotation is attributed to the clerk by Marcel Hutin, in the "Echo de Paris."

After the X-ray examination Premier Clemenceau walked out on the balcony of his house, overlooking the garden.

The Premier seemed vigorous, although he spat a little blood.

All Paris Sympathizes

The official bulletin caused some anxiety in the entourage of the Premier, and the news that his condition was more serious than at first reported spread quickly throughout Paris, causing widespread expressions of sympathy.

The Premier, however, bore up remarkably well during the morning, refusing to return to his bed and receiving numerous callers, among whom were William G. Sharp, the American Ambassador, and Admiral Benson, U. S. N. The ambassador told the Associated Press representative that he found the Premier in the best of spirits, displaying wonderful courage and cheerfulness.

One of those present at the taking of the radiograph of Premier Clemenceau's wound is quoted by the "Temps" as saying:

"The radiograph is perfectly clear, marking the exact spot of the projectile near the lung in a region which best withstands the presence of a foreign body. Therefore it is not likely that the extraction of the bullet will be attempted at the present time.

Berger and Four Other Socialists Get 20 Years

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—A maximum sentence of twenty years in Leavenworth Prison was imposed by Federal Judge Landis to-day on Congressman-elect Victor L. Berger, of Milwaukee, and four other Socialist leaders, who in their final pleas likened themselves to history's greatest martyrs. The five men, convicted of conspiracy to obstruct the draft in violation of the espionage act, succeeded in obtaining release on \$25,000 bail from Judge Altshuler and declared they would carry their legal fight to the United States Supreme Court.

Besides Berger, publisher of "The Milwaukee Leader," the other convicted men are: The Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, lecturer and writer.

Adolph Gerner, national secretary of the Socialist party, and "over half the while" race is in a chaotic state of revolution out of which must develop an orderly Socialist reign within five years."

The new bonds had been fixed at \$25,000 on each count, and each of the five was found guilty on two counts. The surety, too, was required to be double the sum fixed, or \$50,000 for all.

Fess Is Out, Gillett Will Be Speaker

Ohio Man Withdraws and Calls on His Friends to Vote for New Englander

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Dr. Simon D. Fess, of Ohio, chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee in the last campaign, formally withdrew from the Speakership race to-night, thus leaving the fight a line-up between James R. Mann and Frederick H. Gillett. This is believed here to mean the nomination of Gillett on the first ballot.

Representative Fess gave out the following statement: "In the interest of party solidarity I have withdrawn from the Speakership contest and hereby release my friends from any and all pledges in my support. I am deeply grateful to them and to the press for the very cordial support proffered me."

"My action is wholly based on my sense of duty to the party, which is paramount to every other consideration."

The Fess statement followed a conference between the Ohio candidate and Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, which lasted several hours. Friends of Dr. Fess and the Gillett men, who naturally were delighted, declared together that what moved Dr. Fess to this step was the fear that something might start a drift toward Mann which would make it impossible to defeat him. Dr. Fess is known to share earnestly with the Gillett backers the belief that Mann's election as Speaker would be a big handicap to the Republican party in 1920.

A close friend of Dr. Fess said to-night that there were fifty-seven votes pledged to him, and that all but three would go to Gillett.

Wilson, at Sea, Speeds Sympathy to Clemenceau

ON BOARD U. S. S. GEORGE WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—President Wilson sent the following message of condolence on learning of the attack upon Premier Clemenceau:

"Lansing, American mission, Paris: Please convey to M. Clemenceau my heartfelt sympathy and my joy at his escape. "I sincerely hope that the report that he was only slightly injured is altogether true. I was deeply shocked by the news of the attack. "WOODROW WILSON."