

A Fine History of the Rainbow Division

IF THERE was such a thing as a Literary Cross for War Books we should take the greatest pleasure in pinning it on Raymond S. Tompkins for his work called *The Story of the Rainbow Division*. We must assume that Mr. Tompkins was a member of the division, for it is difficult to imagine a man writing the kind of a story he tells here unless as the result of personal experience; yet the personal pronoun is used only once, on next to the last page!

And as modesty is always one of the conspicuous attributes of a good soldier we like to think it is this quality in the writer that has impelled him to keep himself out of the story. But whether the assumption is correct or not, Mr. Tompkins has written the best narrative of a division of the A. E. F. that has been published. In addition to this his volume contains the first account of the experiences of American soldiers in conquered Germany.

Mr. Tompkins has no charges to make against the officers of the A. E. F., does not tell his readers how much better the war might have been fought, nor does he indulge in army scandals. Even the bitter experience of the "Valley Forge Hike" from Vaucouleurs to the Rolampont area, when men wore their shoes out and marched through the snow filled roads with their bloodstained feet wrapped in rags, does not rouse either his ire or his sense of the pathetic. To him it was a piece of the hardships of war, to be en-

dured as best one might and looked back upon in a spirit of fine tolerance.

When the Rainbow Division was formed out of National Guard elements from New York to California, on August 14, 1917, our historian declares, the United States knew it really had got into the Great War. He says that when the division actually was encamped at Camp Mills, Long Island, the people who came to visit their sons and friends in it thought it was called "Rainbow" because "there were so many different colored hat cords on the campaign hats." He tells how the division went abroad in October and lived in wet and mud through the training period until the middle of February, 1918, when the Rainbow began to get its experience of war in the trenches of the Luneville sector, which had a reputation for being "quiet."

Owing to a tacit kind of arrangement between the Germans and the French the only signs of war in that sector were the German trenches. In fact, it was so peaceful that one group of German privates had a habit of coming out in front of their trenches and washing their clothes in a water filled shell hole in No Man's Land. This got on the nerves of some Alabama infantrymen, who opened fire on them, with the result that the Germans fled to their trenches and Luneville sector forthwith ceased to be quiet. After being rebuked by a French officer one of the doughboys remarked: "What the hell? I came out here to kill these Boches, not to sit here and watch 'em wash clothes."

On March 5 the Rainbow had its first

fight; on March 9 it made its first raid, on March 17 two officers and fifty men of the 165th Infantry fought the Germans out of a strong point and destroyed it. Then it was booked for a rest, but since the relief never came it has been suggested that the title of the Rainbow Division's story ought to be "Rests We Never Got." From the time the German offensive of March 21 began until our army reached Sedan the Rainbows never knew what rest was. Mr. Tompkins tells stirringly of its fighting: before Chalons-sur-Marne—quite the best account yet written of this great battle; in the Chateau-Thierry salient; at St. Mihiel, and through the Argonne Forest to Sedan. And the day of the armistice found the Rainbow out of the line in the region of Buzancy.

But that was only a temporary respite from hiking. Until November 20 it rested at Brandeville, being equipped with new uniforms the while and getting its transport into shape for the advance into Germany. For, as we read: "The German army had planned to march into Paris wearing brand new spiked helmets. The Rainbow would march into Germany, all in holiday duds. It had a terrible time for a while, though, with its new pants. Some muddled quartermaster had sent the division a lot of clothes built for an army of fat men, and the stuff had to be sent back while the division waited." And as the division went forward the country was much like New England, much like France, but with this difference:

"This was the other side of a world that

had been divided for four years—divided as though by a great wall so that neither side could look over and see what the other side was doing. Here, suddenly, was the other side, disclosed to view mile by mile. Exhilaration grew out of this situation. The foot soldiers felt it. On their backs were the same heavy packs they had carried on night marches through rain and mud toward a morning that would bring a battle—when no prospects stretched before them but more night marches and more battles, more rain and more mud. But this was bright sunny daylight, and there lay ahead good billets, sound sleep, leisurely going—and the River Rhine. So they were a fine looking bunch as they swarmed through the valleys and over the hills—fresh faced, clear eyed, with a pep instead of a slog to their gait."

The attitude of the soldiers as to fraternizing with the German soldiers was pretty well expressed by "a little black-eyed soldier with curly black hair and a high curved nose." He said: "Tell yuh what I bet about those Goimans. Bet yuh they've been told to try to get in good with the American Army so people won't believe these stories about killin' babies and boinin' choiches. Well, they gotta do somethin' more'n bow to get in good with ma. Cap'n says don't frat-nize with 'em and y' aint going' to see me frat-nizin'."

THE STORY OF THE RAINBOW DIVISION. BY RAYMOND S. TOMPKINS. With an introduction by Major-Gen. Charles T. Mober. Boni & Liveright.

Books Received in the Week Ending September 3

Fiction.

THE OLD MADHOUSE. BY WILLIAM DE MORGAN. A posthumous novel nearly completed when the author died. There is a haunted house, a mysterious disappearance and a triple romance. Mrs. De Morgan, in a final chapter, tells how her husband would have completed the book. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

CAKE UPON THE WATERS. BY ZOE AKINS. An extravagant young woman, a remonstrant lawyer, a contest involving millions and a burglary. New York: Century Company.

VIVE LA FRANCE. BY E. B. KNIFE AND A. A. KNIFE. A young French girl, her father, her grandfather, an Alsatian boy and an American ambulance driver. New York: Century Company.

BLUE MAGIC. BY EDITH BALLINGER PRICE. Idyllic. Comradeship between two American boys, one just out of college, the other, a youngster, temporarily crippled. New York: Century Company.

THE QUERRILS. BY STACY AUMONIER. Study of an amiable English family afraid of any emotional exercise. New York: Century Company.

YELLOW MEN SLEEP. BY JEREMY LANE. An American girl is held in the Desert of Gobi, and the plot brings in the American Secret Service. New York: Century Company.

IN THE SWEET DRY AND DRY. BY CHRISTOPHER MORLEY AND BART HALEY. A veracious story designed to prove that nature is a drunkard at heart. New York: Boni & Liveright.

THE LAND THEY LOVED. BY G. D. CUMMINS. Returning to Ireland from America, a girl finds that one of her brothers has died for Sinn Fein and the other in France. Her relations with the third brother form the main interest of the book. New York: Macmillan Company.

THE LADY OF CASTLE QUEER. BY DAVID SEAKS FOSTER. Centres about a house on cliffs along the Atlantic shore in Massachusetts. New York: Franklin Book Company.

THE BARTLETT MYSTERY. BY LOUIS TRACY. A detective story with American settings. New York: Edward J. Clode.

THE OLD CARD. BY ROLAND PERTWEE. Humorous tale in which the leading characters are an old style actor and his adopted daughter, a motion picture actress. New York: Boni & Liveright.

SHORTY McCABE GETS THE HAIL. BY SEWELL FORD. Like the other Shorty McCabe stories, but has in it a returned soldier. New York: Edward J. Clode.

Industry.

ROMANCE OF A GREAT FACTORY. BY CHARLES M. RIPLEY. Mainly about the shop of the General Electric Company at Schenectady. Introduction by Charles P. Steinmetz. Illustrated with photographs. Schenectady, New York: Gazette Press.

TRUST DISSOLUTION. BY MERLE RAYMOND THOMPSON. History of selected cases—sugar trust, Addyston Pipe and Steel, National Harrow, Northern Securities, &c.—chapter on Standard Oil; chapter on American Tobacco; decisions since 1911, and important cases awaiting decision. Boston: Richard G. Badger.

For Boys and Girls.

THE LIBERTY GIRL. BY RENA I. HALSEY. About a seventeen-year-old girl who formed a patriotic club, a soldier from Camp Mills and a nurse. A story for girls of fourteen and upward. Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company.

BILLY VANILLA. BY SOL N. SHERIDAN. For children of ten or eleven or younger. Billy Vanilla was really William McMullan, who knew the Shaggy Boy, the Boy a Thousand Years Old, the Man With the Red Whiskers and other widely differentiated people. Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company.

NORA'S TWIN SISTER. BY NINA RHOADES. Nora, 12 years old, had a twin sister who was adopted by well-to-do people and partly spoiled. There is a plot in which the children change places over night. Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company.

WHEN I WAS A GIRL IN ICELAND. BY HOLMERIDUR ARNADOTTIR. The author lived in Iceland, which is her birthplace, until a year and a half ago, coming to America to teach Icelandic and Danish at Columbia University. She describes for children how Icelanders live, their games, their stories and legends, &c. Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company.

FORTUNES OF WAR. BY RALPH HENRY BARBOUR AND H. P. HOLT. Adventures of a Maine boy who undertakes to sail a schooner to France through the war zone. New York: Century Company.

THE TRAIL MAKERS. BY CHARLES P. BURTON. Two boys spend the summer among a railroad construction gang. A German spy tries to dynamite the viaduct. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

Drama.

THE CROWNING. BY WILLIAM WILEY SCOTT. Allegorical play in four acts, dealing with the causes of war and the lot of the common man. Boston: Richard G. Badger.

THE WILL OF SONG. BY PERCY MACKEY AND HARRY BARNHART. "A dramatic service of community singing." With diagrams and enthusiasms. New York: Boni & Liveright.

THE HAND OF POTTER. BY THEODORE DREISER. Tragedy in four acts. Characters from the East Side of New York. New York: Boni & Liveright.

Biography.

FREDERICK THE GREAT. BY NORWOOD YOUNG. A definitive work with a view of Frederick's military talents different from Carlyle's. With maps, bibliography and index. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

Government.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION IN WAR TIME AND AFTER. BY WILLIAM FRANKLIN WILLOUGHBY. Covers the mobilization of industry, food, fuel, transportation, shipping, labor, finance and control of foreign trade and public service of information. Index. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Textbooks.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS. BY GRAHAM A. LAING. For high school use. New York: Gregg Publishing Company, 77 Madison avenue.

Education.

THE PROJECT METHOD IN EDUCATION. BY MENDEL E. BRANOM. This method in education is to set a particular problem before the pupil and to relate school work to out-of-school work. Boston: Richard G. Badger.

Verse.

OLD-FASHIONED VERSES. BY WILLIAM T. HORNADAY. The author, known as a naturalist, writes on the war, the Wild West, wild life, friendship and love. There are also nonsense verses. New York: Clark & Fritts, 229 West Twenty-eighth street.

BLUE SMOKE. BY KARLE WILSON BAKER. New Haven: Yale University Press.

THE BELLS OF IS. BY ISAAC STEVENS SMITH. The title page also tells you Voices Heard in Rambles With the Muse and "a seer's survey of life, random rhymes and literary excursion." Boston: Roxburgh Publishing Company.

A MESSAGE. BY MARIE MALMQUIST. Largely religious. Boston: Roxburgh Publishing Company.

Fishing.

BASS, PIKE, PERCH AND OTHER GAME FISHES OF AMERICA. BY JAMES A. HENSHALL. New edition of a book first published in 1903. Excellent reference work, thoroughly indexed. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company.

Criticism.

CREATIVE CRITICISM: ESSAYS ON THE UNITY OF GENIUS AND TASTE. BY J. E. SPINGARN. Four essays—The New Criticism, Dramatic Criticism and the Theatre, Prose and Verse, and Creative Connoisseurship. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

For Motorists.

DYKE'S AUTOMOBILE AND GASOLINE ENGINE ENCYCLOPEDIA. BY A. L. DYKE. Tenth edition. Contains 532 charts, inserts, dictionary, index, supplements on the Ford, Packard, airplanes and Liberty "12" engine. Construction, operation and repairing. Many of the charts are photographic. 960 pages. St. Louis: A. L. Dyke, 613-617 Granite Building.

Psychology.

AN ORGANISMAL THEORY OF CONSCIOUSNESS. BY WILLIAM EMERSON RITTER. The author is a specialist in biological research and his hypothesis does away with the theory of body and mind as distinct from each other. Boston: Richard G. Badger.

History.

THE SHAMROCK BATTALION OF THE RAINBOW: A STORY OF THE "FIGHTING SIXTY-NINTH." BY MARTIN J. HOGAN. The author was a corporal, Company K, of the 165th Infantry (the Sixty-ninth Regiment, New York National Guard). New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Maps.

REYNOLDS'S AFTER-WAR ATLAS AND GAZETEER OF THE WORLD. Contains 25 maps on which are recognized the new boundaries fixed by the Treaty of Versailles; a 120,000 word war history; 40 automobile maps; motoring laws of all States; 32 railway maps; world statistics, commercial, industrial, &c., illustrated with photographs; and a gazeteer of the world listing places in the United States of more than 500 inhabitants and incorporated places elsewhere of 1,000 or over. New York: Reynolds Publishing Company, 425 West Thirteenth street.

Religion.

GEORGE WASHINGTON THE CHRISTIAN. BY WILLIAM J. JOHNSON. Washington's religious training, prayers, activity as a churchman, attendance at communion, &c. New York: Abingdon Press.

Civic Affairs.

TOWN IMPROVEMENT. BY FREDERICK NOBLE EVANS. The physical improvement of a town—street system and traffic routing, parks, water front, water supply, sewerage, school grounds and gardens; neighborhood centres. Questionnaire by chapters. Index. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

France.

FRENCH WAYS AND THEIR MEANINGS. BY EDITH WHEATON. A short study of French social habits and customs written to inform Americans. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Foreign Trade.

AMERICAN FOREIGN TRADE. BY CHARLES M. PEPPER. Survey of world markets, sources of raw materials and national efficiency of the principal countries with a consideration of fiscal policies—the whole to estimate our chance at a preponderant position among trading nations. New York: Century Company.

Miscellaneous.

RAEMAEEKERS'S CARTOON HISTORY OF THE WAR: VOLUME III. BY LOUIS RAEMAEEKERS. More of the artist's powerful drawings based on the war. New York: Century Company.

"DERE MARLE" CALENDAR. For 1920, with fragments of Bill's remarks to Mable. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company.

THE OLD ENGLISH ELENE, PHOENIX AND PHYSIOLOGUS. BY ALBERT STANBROUGH COOK. Text of certain Old English manuscripts with conjectural readings and detailed notes. Glossary. New Haven: Yale University Press.

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