FRENCH MARVELS ON FIRING LINE

Their Genius at Mobilization Saves Their Country From Germans.

(Continued From Page 1)

It stood on that afternoon of the fifth day of the battle, when the issue of the war was trembling in the scales; the movement of troops and guns from the quiet sectors of the front had begun, I knew; but what I saw a few hours after leaving Paris, from my car window, and for days thereafter, amazed me more than anything I have seen in this war.

Military transport is notoriously slow. Trains, as a rule, are continually held up, wheeled traffic blocked. The nearer one gets to the front, excepting the last few miles behind the line, the more congestion exists; to get guns, placed under camouflage within view of the enemy, out of the zone of fire into safety on the roads behind, is a lengthy operation that in normal times requires days; sometimes, if heavy guns are involved, weeks.

Pushing Up Transportation.

The S. O. S. passed along the front; the crisis of Verdun, of the Marne, had come again. Three days later, looking out of the window of a great trunk railway that runs behind much of the front south of the Oise, I watched with awe and thanksgiving, train after train of those ridiculous toy engines, pulling the funny little French flatcars and boxcars that Americans so laughed at, once. The trains were running fast; a good 20 miles an hour, and on a headway of not more than two minutes.

Upon each of the little flatcars—and there were 25 to 40 to each train—stood a motor lorry. Out of the back of one lorry in every three poked the nose of a howitzer, or field gun. In each of these beside their gun, were the helmeted Poilus who within a few hours would be serving it against the enemy. The other lorries were laden with cassions, with extra supplies of shells, or with wagons filled with supplies, spare wheels strapped on their tops to make repairs when shells should smash them—wagons that could go forward to the guns where motor traffic would be made impossible by the enemy's fire.

Filling the Gap.

Nothing was forgotten, nothing was lacking. As these trains reached railhead, the lorries were ready to roll down into the road and off to strengthen the barrier between the succeeded enemy and the final victory that seemed so near. The spectacle reminded me of specials running to a Yale-Harvard game.

But the railway traffic was only part of the irresistible flood of weapons of destruction and men that was flowing to the north. On each side of the track, along the roads, were other processions of lorries, proceeding under their own power. Many of these carried the deadly 75's that have since mown down thousands of Germans; others were packed with troops, the shock troops of the French army, always kept in reserve for attack or defence where the task is hardest. For five hours, until darkness came and I left my train, I watched this procession of guns, lorries and men going to repair the break in the dyke.

Column Never Stops.

Every one of these men, every gun that I saw on that afternoon had been withdrawn from the front elsewhere since the disaster occurred. Here and there, along the main road, that was a moving platform of motor transport, I saw, tumbled in the ditch, a lorry. It had developed engine trouble, perhaps some trifling ailment that the driver could fix in three minutes. No matter—into the ditch it must go. The orders now are that the column, flowing for more than 150 miles, must never stop; already the left hand side of the roads is occupied by empty lorries which have made one trip and are coming back for fresh loads. There is no room for a machine to draw aside; to halt for a moment meant endless confusion. When a lorry breaks down, there is one invariable rule, as on the road to Verdun; the pollus pile out, grab rails from a fence, or any convenient, nearby emergency lever, and pry the lorry, gun and all, into the ditch. Later, when the rush is over, the salvage corps will come along.

Guns and Troops—Everywhere.

The roads were filled with the endless chain of lorries. Already, I could see that most of the available small guns had gone up, for there were more infantry in the lorries on the trucks; and, as the day wore on, and I tried with very poor success to reach where was situated a headquarters, I was anxious to attain, the heavy guns had their turn. Big fellows, these, specially mounted in trucks, too large for the lorries, but soon to make their voices heard from far in the rear—smashing up the German lines of communication and bringing wholesale death to masses of troops whose places of concentration would be signaled by our avions.

German air scouts, of course, had informed their masters long since of this endless parade from all the quieter sectors of the front, along the few main roads and the one great railway available, to the scene of battle. It was a great tribute to the supremacy of the air held by the French that these rich targets were not attacked, in daylight; on the other side of the lines, French and British machines rained death and panic among the German divisions and artillery-men, flowing in similar streams to the plains of Picardy.

Bombed By Germans.

But at night, the great Gotha bombing machines, for once abandoning for legitimate military objectives their game of terrorizing the women and children of London and Paris, came in hordes and scattered bombs along the railway and among the transport. At Chalons-sur-Marne, a great junction where I spent some time, I found a scene of ruin about the station; smouldering piles of stores, still burning freight cars, twisted tracks and yawning holes among the sidings. For four nights Gothas had been bombing Chalons. There was 75 of them, military policemen told me, the night before I was there; civilians in the town were killed, the station was knocked about; but the flow of trains I have described to the zone of battle was not interrupted by the whole raid for more than half an hour.

It was hard to believe, looking at what the bombs had done; and the story of the heroism of some territorials who are too old for the firing line is worth telling. They knew, every Frenchman knew, what was at stake in the north; how vital it was that the flow of guns from the south, and the steady stream of men, should not be checked for an hour. In such a crisis, a few hours may mean defeat or victory. And so, while the bombs were falling on the tracks, the old men of these labor battalions, in their shabby cordouroy overalls and dirty, faded gray shirts, looking like anything but soldiers, toiled on through the night, keeping the main tracks open.

Airplanes in Waves.

The Gothas came in waves. No sooner had a dozen machines, sweeping along the tracks 100 feet or so above the ground, their engines sounding like 100 threshing machines going at once, dropped their bombs and made off, than a new group arrived. But the devoted French territorials kept at the work; some were killed and injured, but were they not under fire? "It was my baptism of fire," said an old man to me proudly, "for I am too old for the trenches. And I am glad to have risked my life, like the young ones." It would not surprise the officer in charge of those men if a few Croix de Guerre are distributed among them; for repairing railway tracks under fire and running blazing cars with explosive contents onto sidings, is not work for faint hearts. They kept the line open; all night, amid the bombardments, the long, dark trains puffed through Chalons; and the scene at Chalons was repeated, on a smaller scale, at many other stations behind the front. Meanwhile, Parisians and Londoners, peering up at the motionless clouds about the full moon, said, "It's queer the Gothas aren't raiding us tonight."

Allies Safe From Disaster.

There are many things I saw and heard, behind the front in these last few days, that I would like to tell, but may not yet; the main impression produced on my mind is an absolute confidence that whatever fighting may come this summer, we are now safe from disaster, under the protection of the marvelous French staff, with its genius for war and organization. Many things the French have done that our officers have not understood, many things about French methods they have not perhaps liked; but an army must be judged by results, and the work of stripping an active front of guns and men and transferring them elsewhere in a few days, when thousands of cannon and hundreds of thousands of men must be moved—has been done under terrible pressure by the French staff in a way that has seemed to me simply miraculous.

It was the work of transport and organization in the rear that made it possible for Fayelle to form a defensive flank along the Oise, massacre with those 75's that came up in lorries the many German divisions that tried to force the river, close up the river roads from Noyon to Compiegne and Paris.

Germans Pressed Back.

It was still other divisions and guns moved in the same way that pressed back and immobilized the Germans as in their thrust south at Paris stopped, they flung themselves westwards past Lassigny to Mont Didier, seeking to take Amiens and separate the British and the French; and, finally, Gen. Foch, by that time in supreme command, was able, with still other masses of men and material brought up along the same railways and the same roads, to stop the enemy on the heights west of Mont Didier and contain his rush.

This story has been about the French, whom I have seen going into action; I do not mean to imply that the British, too, have not done marvels in the north; without the British stubbornness north of Mont Didier, before Albert and Arras, where I hear the third army under Gen. Byng has covered itself with glory, the miracle the French have wrought in the south would be in vain. But the break was in a British sector; the British had planned to meet the attack. The French had quite other plans; to them, the collapse of the fifth British army came as a stunning surprise. Terrible then as Sir Douglas Haig's problems were, to move his reserves into position did not involve the difficulties that the French, with that flash of genius that comes to them in moments of supreme peril, saw, understood, overcome almost overnight. There is no better soldier in the world than the Englishman; but after the story of the first week of the battle of Picardy comes to be told in detail, I think all the allied peoples will be glad and proud to serve, in the field, under the supreme direction of the incomparable French staff.—Copyright, 1918, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

Veterans Of Verdun Fight To Hold Hill

French Of Verdun Fight Say It Was Play Compared With Kemmel.

With the British Army in France, (Friday), May 3.—(By the Associated Press.)—Veterans of the defence of Verdun predominated among the French soldiers who so gallantly defended Kemmel hill against the Germans. They declare that Verdun was child's play compared to the conflict in Flanders recently.

The bombardment at Verdun had set a high water mark for concentration of guns of all calibers, but, say those who went through it, it was nothing compared to what the French troops experienced during the German drive against Kemmel. The French troops took up positions about Kemmel on April 12, relieving the battle weary British.

Throughout April 23 and 24, before the attack, the Germans maintained a tremendous bombardment and threw hundreds of thousands of gas shells mixed with ordinary explosive shells.

On the morning of the attack on Kemmel, the German gunners placed ten big shells per second on the crest of the hill and during the day the French put on their gas masks 20 different times, for as fast as the wind cleared the gas away another deluge of the poisonous vapor poured over the hill. Part of the time the poilus had to sleep in their gas masks.

Despite the great quantities of gas thrown the French had only 12 casualties from it, according to the latest reports.

Frech Artillery Reaps Harvest.

A large part of the fighting was with machine guns of which the Germans lways had great numbers and at times the German enfilading fire was terrific. The French artillery and machine guns, however, in their turn, reaped a great harvest from the enemy.

At times the French 75's got into heavy concentrations of infantry and literally tore them to pieces. The German losses in many instances are placed as high as 40 percent.

French runners with messages refused to rest and kept at their task.

Beef and Wine Under Fire.

The rationing of one famous regiment which fought at Verdun, was a great feat. It was impossible to use the transport, so rations were brought forward on machine gun carriages under a heavy fire. The regiment had its beef steak and wine every day and furnished neighboring regiments as well.

Nearly all the strecher bearers were killed. One worked six nights and days without rest.

German airplanes were out in force. They flew low and used machine guns continuously against the infantry.

INJURED TROOPS TO HAVE HOMES

England Starts a Plan to Colonize Them; U. S. to Follow.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, D. C., May 4.—Villages populated by wounded and convalescent soldiers and their families, together with the necessary medical attendants, may be a feature of the British postwar reconstruction program. A plan for the establishment of such villages is now being considered.

This is one of a number of colonization plans for taking care of returned soldiers, which have been formed in this country and abroad, and this movement toward the founding of new communities is certainly one of the most interesting and typical movements which has come out of the war.

More than that, these numerous plans for the founding of special communities amount to an admission that the place which is given the soldier must be a better place than that which he occupied before the war; otherwise, there would be no need to found special communities or colonies. In other words, this colonization movement is an acknowledgement that industrial and social conditions in the principal countries of the world are faulty, and that these men who return from war to take up life anew should do so under more favorable conditions.

To Give Them Good Homes.

These English villages for wounded and convalescent soldiers are intended to offer men homes where they will govern themselves, live with their families, and undergo prolonged training which will fit them to earn their livings. In addition to this, the villages are to form the nuclei of permanent communities which will be established on a new basis of healthfulness and social welfare.

The plan is not to use towns which are already built, but to build new ones in healthful locations and convenient to transportation lines. An area of one square mile is considered adequate for the founding of a village of 1000 disabled men. This will afford enough land for perhaps two thirds of the number to study agriculture, while the rest will learn various handicrafts.

Miscellaneous Wounds.

Another advantage for the plan is that it will not separate the various types of disability, such as men suffering from shell shock, those that have undergone amputation, and those that are recovering from disease, but will handle them all together. In this way, the depressing effect of the hospital wards, in which great numbers of men suffering from the same disabilities are gathered, will be avoided.

These villages are not to be under military discipline, but are to be self governing communities.

Plans for U. S. Soldiers.

The movement toward the founding of new communities in order to restore the soldier to civil life under the most favorable conditions possible to create is already under way in this country. Its most definite manifestation so far is the Cresser bill, which has been endorsed by the secretary of labor, and which provides for the colonization of returned soldiers on national forests as lumbermen, on coal and mineral lands as miners, and on agricultural lands as farmers. The gist of this measure is that the title to the lands will remain in the government, and that the men will work them under some sort of leasing or royalty agreement.

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A Clearance Sale of Silks

That Disregards Former Costs @ Selling Prices

DO you know what the word Clearance means at "The Popular"? If you have ever attended one of our Silk Clearance Sales you surely do. If not, it means that each year we have one tremendous sale to clear out our silk department of all novelty silks and broken lines of staple silks at clearance prices, which is in most cases actually less than the wholesale cost. But when the time comes to clean up, we do it with a vim and in short order, disregarding former costs and selling prices.

We have made preparations extraordinary for our May Clearance Sale this year, purchasing many special lots of beautiful silks to add to the magnitude of the crowning silk event of the year. Thousands of yards of stylish, practical and dependable silks go to make up this wonderful collection. We expect a very large attendance, and have provided for extra salespeople, wrappers and cashiers, in order that we may give our patrons our usual prompt service.

You will buy silks because you have never had the opportunity to purchase them so cheaply. Because it's real economy to wear silks and nothing is so practical or so dependable. Because you are a patriot and wish to conserve other fabrics that are needed for the Army. Last, but not least, because silk for silk's sake. They are irresistible to the lover of style and beauty in dress.

Your particular attention is called to our window displays, and we want to impress upon you the fact that it is for your own best interests to be here Monday at 8:30 oclock when the doors open. —(Third Floor)

It Is A Pleasure to Conserve Wool When The Alternative Is Silk

KHAKI KOOL—Mallinson's Genuine All Silk Khaki Kool. Shown in about twenty-five beautiful new shades and designs. Khaki Kool is the standard sport silk for outdoor wear. It cannot be excelled in beauty and service and is ideal for coats, skirts and suits for Summer wear. Sold all over the country for $4.50 and $5.00 a yard. No plain white included in this lot. Clearance Sale price while it lasts, a yard, at **$2.95**

CHENEY BROTHERS' FOULARDS—40 inch shower-proof foulards, the most stylish and practical silks to be had. Shown here in a wonderful assortment of new designs. The foulard dress is suitable for any and all occasions. Our regular $2.75 value. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.98**

HINDU CREPE—40 inches wide. An entirely new fabric that has met with much popularity this season. A soft irregular crepe weave in printed effects. Hindu Crepe makes a most practical dress. All novel and new designs. Regular price $3.50. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.98**

PRINTED PUSSY WILLOW—The silk de luxe. We offer this stylish and durable fabric in broken assortment, in novel effects. This is the silk for the woman who discriminates, the woman who wants something different. Pussy Willow is 40 inches wide and is worth $4.00 per yard. Sale price, a yard, at **$2.85**

RUFF A NUFF—A new and novel rough weave suitable for skirts, suits and dresses. Shown in a broken color assortment. Regular price $4.00 a yard. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$2.95**

SILK GINGHAM—We offer a wonderful collection of these beautiful Summer silks, now so very popular. As the warm weather approches they are very much in evidence. Suitable for both women's and children's Summer wear. Many novel color combinations. 36 inch $2.50 and $3.00 quality, $1.98; 36 inch $2.00 quality, at a yard, **$1.49**

FANCY CHIFFON TAFFETA—We offer a most attractive assortment of beautiful fancy checked plaid and striped chiffon taffeta, that is ideal for skirts and dresses. These silks are most popular and practical for Summer wear. $3.50 and $4.00 qualities, go in the Clearance Sale, at a yard, **$2.35**

$2.00 FOULARDS, AT $1.19—We offer about thirty designs in dotted, striped and figured foulards. Shown in all the wanted shades. 36 inches wide and worth $2.00 a yard. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.19**

$5.00 BARONETTE SATINS, $3.85—Broken color assortment of this wanted sport satin. A regular $5.00 value. While the lot lasts in the Clearance Sale, choose at a yard, **$3.85**

BLACK TAFFETA SILK SPECIALS—Taffeta being one of the leading Black Silks for Summer wear, it will interest you to know that we are offering some exceptionally good specials in 36 and 40 inch black taffetas:

BLACK CHIFFON TAFFETA—Yarn dyed. This 36 inch, $1.50 quality, goes in the Clearance Sale, at a yard, **$1.19**

BLACK CHIFFON DRESS TAFFETA—36 inches wide and worth $2.00 a yard. This is Bonnett's imported chiffon dress taffeta. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.69**

BLACK TAFFETA SILK—Bonnett's imported, pure dye, black taffeta silk; extra heavy quality, 36 inches wide. A $2.50 grade, at a yard, **$2.15**

BLACK CHIFFON TAFFETA—40 inch soft, high lustre chiffon taffeta; light weight for dress purposes. A regular $2.00 quality. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.75**

BLACK CHIFFON FINISH TAFFETA—40 inch imported soft, light weight, beautiful, glossy, black chiffon finish taffeta. The best quality to be had in taffeta, offered at a substantial saving. A $3.00 quality. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$2.59**

PETTICOAT SATIN—Belding's 36 inch guaranteed petticoat satin, one of the most durable satins. Shown in a broken color assortment. Regular $1.50 quality. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.19**

COLORED PONGEE—32 inch colored pongee or Shantung, the most practical silk for soft Summer dresses, children's dresses and skirts. Shown in Copen, Navy, Gold, Old Rose, French Blue, Gray, White, Emerald, Purple and Black. Regular $1.25 value. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **79c**

MESSALINE—We offer in a broken color assortment, splendid grades of messaline, suitable for linings, drops, petticoats and dresses. 36 inch, $1.75 quality, $1.29; 36 inch, $1.00 quality, in the Clearance Sale, at a yard, **79c**

DRESS POPLIN—36 inches wide. A heavy practical silk for skirts and dresses. Broken color assortment. The $1.25 grade, in the Clearance Sale, at a yard, **95c**

CREPE DE CHINE—Again we have secured about a thousand yards of good heavy quality 40 inch, all silk crepe de chine. We have a good supply of white and flesh shades for underwear. Our advice to you is to shop early on the dress shades, as they are limited, and many of the best colors will be closed out early Monday morning. While the lot lasts, we will sell the $1.50 grade, limit ten yards to a customer, at a yard, **98c**

CHIFFON CLOTH—40 inch dress chiffon. Extra heavy quality, suitable for dresses, blouses and combinations. Practically all shades. A $1.25 quality, in the Clearance Sale, at a yard, **98c**

TUB SILKS—For skirts, blouses and dresses. We offer about a hundred new designs in washable fast color tub silks, suitable for Summer wear. This is a splendid shirt silk, and is also very popular for the other purposes named above. Shown in very neat designs, and worth regularly $1.25 and $1.50 a yard. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **98c**

NOVELTY GEORGETTES AND INDESTRUCTIBLE VOILES—Many beautiful and novel designs in these fabrics, which are so popular for blouses and dresses, and a comfort to be worn during the warm days. Regular $3.50 value. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$2.85**

PASTEL SILKS GREATLY REDUCED—We have arranged a table of beautiful pastel shades, suitable for evening, reception and afternoon wear. This table contains some of our most beautiful silks, such as crepe de chine, satin meteor, moonglow meteor, satin charmeuse, palm crepe, satin de luxe, pussy willow and many other charming weaves. The colors bring to one's mind a marvelous rainbow. Note the marked reductions:

$1.50 values	98c
$2.00 values	$1.35
$2.50 values	$1.75
$3.00 values	$2.35
$3.50 values	$2.65
$4.50 and $5.00 values	$3.45

GEORGETTE CREPE—A splendid heavy quality shown in many wanted shades. This crepe retails regularly at $2.00 a yard. Clearance Sale price, a yard, at **$1.50**

SPECIAL LOT OF FANCY SILKS—We have secured a special lot of fancy dress taffetas and satins, very desirable for skirts and dresses. 36 inches wide and worth $2.50 a yard, while the lot lasts in the Clearance sale, a yard, at **$1.59**

ORIENTAL PONGEE—Shown in natural color. During the Clearance Sale we offer this wanted silk, worth $1.25 a yard, limit ten yards to a customer, at a yard, **79c**

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HELP HOLD THE HOME LINES

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At the Crawford All Next Week

"All Work and No Play Makes Jack a Dull Boy." Believing in This Old Saying, Which Is As True As It Is Old, the Management of "The Popular" Will on Monday Evening Entertain Its Employes at a Theater Party at The Crawford. The Management Believes in Clean Sports and Amusements and Is Happy to Have the Pleasure of Taking Its Employes to See "Wanted, a Baby."

Yes, "The Popular's" Millinery Salons Have Planned for Something Unusual Next Week and Here It Is:

New Spring Hats

Just from the hands of the designers
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At $5 and $7.50

A TRIMMED hat sale at "The Popular" is something to conjure with. It is seldom we have one, but when we do, women COME. They will come quicker than ever when they learn what is here.

Every Hat Is a Smart New Model

Picture Hats of leghorn, flower-trimmed.
Suit hats, solid black or white Milan, with ribbon.
Leghorns with black velvet crowns.
Black Milans brightened by colors.
Hats with wheat trimming.
Shepherdess, poke, sailor, floppy brims, turbans, side rolls, mushroom and on and on. Many lined in colored crepe.

It is offerings like these hats at $5 and $7.50 that are turning the thoughts and footsteps of women toward "The Popular" these difficult times..

No such hats could ordinarily be expected at this price. Every hat in the lot chosen for this sale is finer in material, more expensive in trimming, and of a chic style far beyond its price.

No Two of the Hats Are Alike

So come prepared to find a choice that will fairly overwhelm you with its variety. But, best of all, these hats are remarkable value—extremely so. Remember that they are entirely new and that our reason for this price is entirely one of good will and big business.

A large section has been cleared for this sale. You will see a display of $5 and $7.50 hats that is interesting to say the least.