

# Americans in Training Startle Seasoned Frenchmen by Aptitude in War Game

## HEAVY GERMAN BATTERIES SILENCED BY U. S. GUNNERS WITH BRIEF EXPERIENCE

Upon my return this week from visiting the American troops in France, both at their training camps and in their front line trenches, a number of points of interest regarding them suggest themselves to me, although any description of individual units or of the special points where they are in training or in action is, of course, forbidden.

I think that the most important of these points is the relation that exists between the special training that the American troops are receiving in France, and the rate of supply that they can furnish of men available for the front, either to make good casualties or to extend the line which they are already holding.

All through this war the chief business of the public has been to prevent military problems as they develop in such a way as to prevent false judgments on them by the people at home; and the chief danger in forming a correct opinion in connection with the enormous new factor in American intervention is the natural impatience of the public both here and in America to see the results of this intervention on the battlefield.

I have already pointed out in a past article the essential difficulty of establishing communications from the base ports for the new armies and the vast volume of new work which has had to be done on French soil by the American forces before this great increase in numbers could be made available at the front. But there is another factor of great and vital importance which your public opinion at home may be in danger of overlooking—that is the special training to make troops effective which is required on this side of the water over and above the training they have already received in their camps at home.

**Facing New Conditions With New Weapons.**

Trench warfare in the last three years has been fought under such totally new conditions, with such new weapons and upon such a scale of munitionment—beyond all previous

knowledge—and with such new tactical methods that the last part of the training of troops the finishing touches, can be given only by men who have gone through the experience of actual fighting themselves and only in places that are within touch of the work along the front. New methods and new weapons are, in fact, developed so rapidly that the instructors in the last stages must be very fresh from the trenches and must keep continually in touch with them day by day.

The consequence of these conditions is that there is a halting stage, as it were, between the supply of men reaching Europe (though they have already been thoroughly trained in the United States), and their delivery at the front lines, fully prepared for present trench warfare; and this necessary halting stage is an element of delay which public opinion in America as well as here must reckon with and accept.

In the old days an army trained upon its own known and familiar grounds could be transported overseas and be ready for action the moment the men had been restored from the fatigue of their voyage. The present campaign in the west, however, absolutely demands the new intermediate stage of which I have spoken, and everywhere in France you may see the Americans hard at work to pass themselves through that stage.

**Show Great Aptitude For New Warfare.**

One may add that the rapidity with which this training is going forward would be the American troops is very remarkable, even allowing for the fact that three full years of experience have perfected the instructors in the work they have to do, and it is an admirable proof of the aptitude for the new warfare of which the American troops which have been supplied to those instructors.

The problem is not the simple one of supplying a certain output of troops at the front from a certain reserve of material overseas. It is a problem involving between the source of supply and the finished prod-

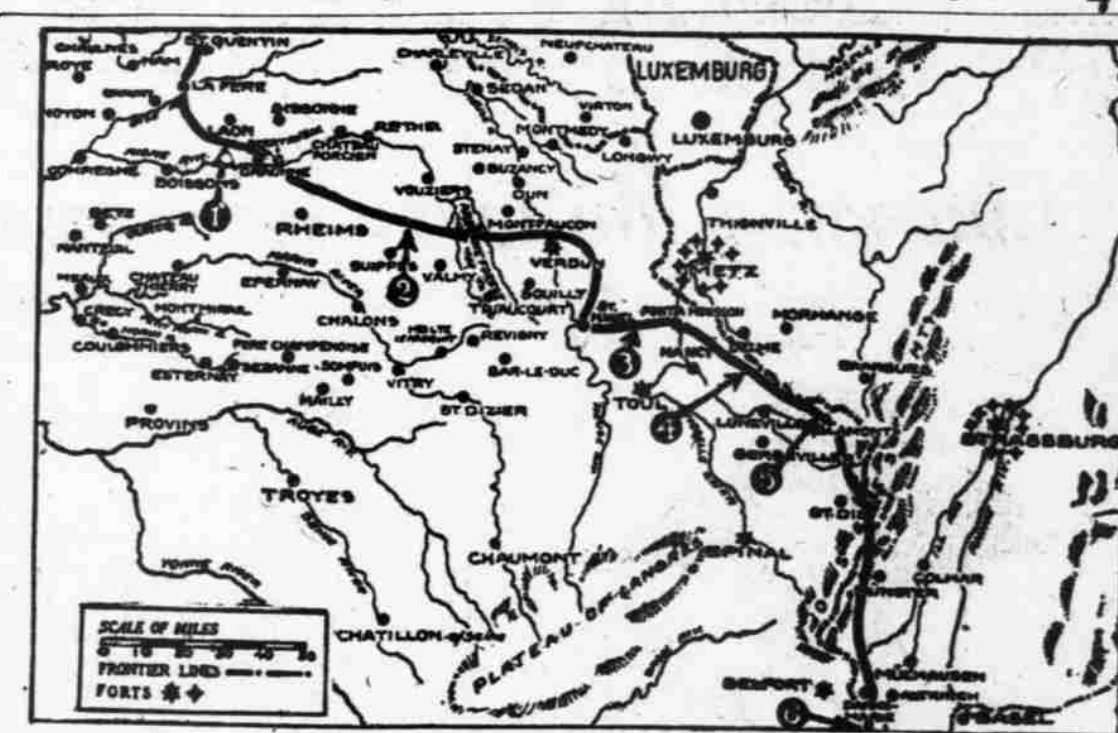
uct a passage of the men through a channel which is narrow when compared with either the volume of supply at the entrance or with the demand at the exit. It is like supplying water from a large cistern to a three-inch tap, while between the cistern and the tap there is a "squeeze" of only an inch in diameter. It is the problem of the hour glass.

The cistern is the immense reserve supply of man power already in existence and in training on your side of the Atlantic. The tap is the railroad at the front and the demand for men in the front-line trenches. The "squeeze" through which the material has to pass is represented by the special training centers all over France. But there is this vital difference between the mechanical cistern—the delivery of water, for instance—you are rigidly bound by your material. The tap and such diameter of pipe will not take more than such and such a volume of water.

But as a human case—the case of the American army and its training centers—you have the highly elastic factors of intelligence, energy and will power. In other words, the passage through which all the human material for the American front has to go between the point of original supply and the point of delivery can be enlarged almost indefinitely. The perfection of the organization in teaching as well as in learning, the good will applied to both, the driving power and intelligence of the teacher and the taught in accelerating the process correspond to an enlargement of the narrow passage through which delivery has to be forced.

**Quick Expansion Good Omen for Future.**

As yet the strain on this gate through which the supply must pass has hardly come into play, because the finished product has been delivered so far upon only a small scale. The heavy work of the last few months has been the supply of raw material, so to speak, from the main source across the Atlantic, the organization of the special training camps



The War Department's official statement last Sunday night, revealing for the first time that American troops are holding trenches near the Swiss border, named the sixth point on the west front where the United States forces have been reported. The exact locations are nowhere made known, but the approximate points are indicated by the numbered arrows on the map:

- (1) Along the Chemin-de-Dames, the scene of last year's great French offensive, and the German counter offensive near Chavignon and other villages northwest of Reims.
- (2) Abreast the Butte de Meunil and Tahure, in the Champagne.
- (3) On the eastern side of the St. Mihiel salient, about Zachpray, Xivray, and Fliery.
- (4) Near the Rhine-Marne Canal, east of Nancy. It was here that the Germans first reported taking American prisoners.
- (5) Near Badonvillers, east and south of Lunerville.
- (6) Near the Swiss border.

In France, and, still more, the organization of the communications. But from now onward the feeding of the front with the rapidly expanding body of trained soldiers will soon show exactly (and those who can today guess the best have the strongest reasons for not telling) when the maximum of the curve of production will have been reached, when the proportion of the front to be supplied with men will have put on the schools through which the supply has to come the heaviest possible strain that they will bear.

But it can safely be stated now

that the rate at which the organization and expansion of these schools is proceeding is a good augury for the future.

I found in connection with this problem during my visit to France a very interesting point which, no doubt, most Americans are familiar with, which is new to us in Europe, in spite of the careful study of the American army which has naturally been made by observers here in the last months.

That is the peculiar aid given to this task of training the American

troops by the existence of the great American coastal defense system and its specially trained body of men.

The great art of modern siege warfare as it has developed on the trench lines during the last three years is the heavy artillery. An accuracy hitherto unneeded and a volume of fire never dreamed of before this war have been developed and acquired.

In barrages the gunners are frequently required to lay their shells on a trajectory passing within a foot of the heads of the men who are advancing to the attack, while guns

# ALLIES PINNING HOPES ON WORK OF ARTILLERY

fred from miles behind the lines must be able to destroy the first line of the German trenches without dropping shells into their own trenches fifty yards away from this target.

**Artillery Won for Germans in the East.**

The success of the central empire in the east was mainly due to their overwhelming superiority over the Russians in heavy artillery and munitionment, the power of the western nations, which were caught ill-prepared by the war to organize their resistance, lay in their ability to make or procure a vast number of new heavy pieces and munitions for them. Today their supply of guns and howitzers may not equal the numbers of their trained gunners, but I believe I am right in saying that in the case of Great Britain the multiple was something like ninety in the first two years for every artilleryman who was under arms on the day that war started.

It is a commonplace that of all the arms used in this war the heavy artillery is the most difficult to create. It is, so to speak, a learned arm. Its effect depends upon exact and elaborate mathematical calculation, it is complicated by a great variety of types of guns and shells, and in the case of howitzers, by variety in the size and power of the charges. Its use is complicated by a great variety of factors—accurate observation from the front, extreme accuracy of the delivery of shells, the secure defense of the observer in the air, accuracy in map making, great skill in distinguishing the true emplacement of the enemy guns from the dummies which he has constructed as camouflage, a keen judgment in differentiating between the various values of the various targets, the organization of supply, the provision of mobility for heavy pieces and for their rapidity for emplacement, and all the rest. On top of that you have the indefinable personal quality which ranges from the front of the gun to the talent of the officers and

observers in estimating minute changes in local conditions of wind, visibility and so forth.

It used to be taken for granted, before the present series of great campaigns, that many years were necessary for the training of a heavy gunner. The technical schools at which officers were trained stood the highest among all the military schools of Europe. Tiny as the scale now seems to us upon which the old work was calculated, the condition of its heavy artillery was always thought to be a peculiarly heavy strain upon the finances of a nation and a good test of its intellectual and moral resources.

To expand such an arm over and over again—ten, twenty, even fifty-fold—in a few months would four years ago have been deemed a impossibility. It is very greatly to the credit of the British service that this seeming miracle has been worked and that you may see today countless heavy batteries between the Dnieper and the North Sea, where every man serving them, from the commanding officer downward, has come from civilian life and knew nothing of his present trade three years ago.

Now, the American service had before it an even harder task than did the British, for its establishment of heavy artillery was much smaller than was the British service before the war. But the American army was found to contain this exceptional and extremely useful item of a coastal defense system, which had not only trained many men in the uses and problems of the largest pieces, but had also centralized a considerable portion of American military thought along those lines. The readers of the exceptionally valuable technical publications such as the Journal of United States Artillery will bear me out when I say that in proportion to the size of the service no army has devoted so much thought to this particular branch as has the United States.

It has proved one of the many cases of unexpected preparation in this war that this branch of the army, created for a totally different purpose, has shown itself of such exceptional value in the present crisis.

Only the other day at Tahure the silencing of the German heavy batteries was accomplished with a rapidity and accuracy that astonished the French, and the work was done by men who had come directly to the front from the American coastal defense units.

## Ye Springtime Gossip

By A. B. C.

I see . . .  
BY an article . . .  
IN Friday's Time . . .  
THAT officers . . .  
AT Camp Meade . . .  
ARE running . . .  
DEEP in debt . . .  
BUYING uniform outfits . . .  
WELL, it's just this— . . .  
THE fellow . . .  
WHO runs deep in debt . . .  
BUYING uniforms . . .  
IS the same fellow . . .  
WHO would . . .  
RUN deep in debt . . .  
BUYING civilian clothing! . . .  
IT'S not due . . .  
TO the merchants; . . .  
AND there's one place— . . .  
D. J. KAUFMAN'S— . . .  
WHERE one hundred . . .  
AND seventy-five . . .  
BUCKS . . .  
WILL keep a general . . .  
FAR from naked; . . .  
AND he can't get . . .  
IN debt. . .  
BECAUSE he has to . . .  
PAY cash and . . .  
SAVES the difference.



I THANK YOU X. Y. Z.

ARE YOU KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

## NOTED FRENCH 'ACE' WILL FLY TODAY TO PHILADELPHIA

Lieut. Georges Flachaire, the famous "Ace," and his little Spad flying machine will be seen here for the last time today, on the polo grounds in Potomac Park, at 4:30 o'clock. Today's flying exhibition promises to be the most thrilling yet. The young French "ace" will leave shortly afterward for Philadelphia by air, and then for Mineola.

Lieutenant Flachaire's exhibition will include all the stunts that can be made by a flyer, looping, tail spin, wing over wing, and the side slide. It was just such a side slide as the young lieutenant will make this afternoon that brought down his first German plane without either gas or bullets. He frightened the German, who, seeing his maneuvering and not knowing that he had been shot, stopped, lost his head and fell.

Lieutenant Flachaire has been flying for more than two years on the Western front, and has been a flyer for the last three years.

He has brought down seven German planes and took an active part in the battle of Verdun, the Somme, and the Champagne. He has been awarded the Legion of Honor, the Military Medal, the War Cross, with six citations, and has received the British Military Medal for having succored a British plane attacked by ten German.

He accomplished the trip from Mineola, where he has been for the past three months, in little less than three hours, but was obliged to land at Philadelphia, and at Camp Meade to get gasoline, the machine not being made for long flights.

**TO NURSE WAR CLERKS.**

Army nurses, wearing the uniform of the army nurse corps, will care for sitting civilian employees of the War Department. It has been announced.

## BULLET PLOWS THROUGH HEAD; SOLDIER LIVES

One of the most remarkable tales of the present war is that told to The Times today by Sergt. Rene Renner, of the French army, who is now in Washington with the French high commission.

Sergeant Renner had a bullet pass directly through his head, but by some freak of chance, no vital center was struck by the missile, and, although his life was despaired of, after one year in the hospital he was brought back to normal health.

The sergeant is still a young man, but old in the experience of warfare. He was in the war since the beginning—even when there were no trenches. It was thus, in the first few months of the war, that he received his first wound.

**Gets Bayonet Wound.**  
At Dinant, in the Meuse district, Belgium, he and his comrades were opposing the German advance. In a bayonet charge, he suffered a broken leg, which incapacitated him for several months. He returned to action as soon as possible, however, and in the action at Berry au Bac, in the Aisne district of France, he received the wound that put him near death.

It was during a terrific bombardment. A company of French troops had been ordered to hold a certain section of trench, and they obeyed orders, although the German shells cut great holes in their sector. It was one of the most sanguinary conflicts of the war, and Sergeant Renner's command—fourteen men—stayed through it until a great German shell, exploding in their midst, buried them all alive.

**Bullet Through Head.**

Sergeant Renner, with a few others, was dug out of the earth. He was seen to be alive, although the hole above the right eye showed where a bullet had entered, and another hole

## Baby Falls 4 Stories, Drops In Perambulator, Bounces, Has Fine Time

NEW YORK, March 24.—William Wicker, two months old, was well and happy today despite a fall from a fourth story window.

He landed in a baby buggy and was not bruised.

The infant's grandmother, who also fell out of the window, was badly injured.

Just behind the left ear, showed where it had left his head. The course of the bullet was direct, through his head, and that the brain was not torn to pieces seems miraculous.

He was removed to a hospital, where the physicians decided that there was not a chance for life. Nevertheless, in the hopes of some miracle, operations were resorted to. Twice Renner's skull was trephined, to remove bits of bone or blood clots which were pressing on the brain.

**Has Three Decorations.**  
After one year in the hospital, Sergeant Renner walked out a free man. He is no longer fit for service, however, and suffers the inconvenience of being able to sleep but four hours a night.

He wears three decorations. One is the ribbon and star awarded to the wounded French soldier. In other is the Croix de Guerre—the war cross, while the third is the most highly prized award of the French soldier—in fact, the highest the French soldier can obtain—the Médaille Militaire. He was also cited in official dispatches for his bravery in the action at Berry au Bac, in which he received the remarkable wound.

**BAER SAYS DELAY ON SEED BILL MAY RESULT IN FAMINE**

Delay by Congress in acting on the Baer bill appropriating \$10,000,000 for seed and calling for mobilization of farm labor will cause serious results, Representative Baer predicted today.

Declaring that the country already is close to famine, he said that Congress will miss the early spring chance of increasing production if it does not hasten.

Baer plans to make a speech soon to spur Congress to the need for the measure.

"Conservation is going on splendidly, but that avails us nothing if we do not increase production," Baer said.

**EACH SCIENTIST SOLDIER GIVEN MRS. EDDY'S BOOK**

The Christian Science Church provides each of its military members with a pocket edition of Science and Health. Further, each man so desiring is sent the Christian Science Monitor, the daily newspaper of the Science Church. In each cantonment in the country there is a Science camp welfare committee. It is the duty of this worker to see that the needs of Science boys are met and to give needed advice.

## SHOT IN GROUND QUELLS NEAR-RIOT AFTER VICE RAID

Policemen who are members of Major Pullman's "vice squad" know today what a well-timed shot, fired into the ground, will accomplish. Yesterday afternoon it quelled what promised to be a near-riot when the police made a raid on a house at 320 B street southwest.

The trouble began when Policeman Purcell, a member of the "vice squad," led by Lieutenant Pierson, attempted to arrest Minnie Henson, colored, Moses Henson, her husband, objected to the arrest, and in a few minutes more than 100 persons had gathered outside the house. Many made threats against the policemen.

Excited individuals rang up the police department, telling of a riot in B street southwest. Inspector Grant sent Headquarters Detectives Kelly and Vermilion to the scene. It was only when several of the officers drew their revolvers that those who offered interference backed away. A shot fired into the ground quelled all efforts at law rebellion.

Henson and his wife were taken to the Fourth precinct police station. Henson is charged with assaulting a policeman, and his wife is detained on a statutory charge.

**PROMINENT MASON KILLED.**

LANCASTER, Pa., March 24.—Albert Hartman, prominent in Masonic circles, was killed today when his automobile crashed into a bridgehead. A loose steering gear caused the accident.

## CONFEREES AGREE ON \$10,000 FOR STARTING FORUMS

Conferees of the House and Senate on the urgent deficiency bill had little difficulty agreeing to the amendments to that bill put on in the Senate or in reaching an understanding.

The Senate item of \$10,000 for organizing community forums was changed to \$10,000, and agreed to. This is the project in which Miss Margaret Wilson and other prominent women and workers for social advancement are interested.

The conferees agreed to the Senate item of \$50,000 for fenders for the highway bridge, \$17,500 for paving on Park road, \$12,000 for a new elevator at Emergency Hospital, and \$66,700 for water mains to new office buildings.

**AMERICAN TARS FALL HARD FOR IRISH COLLEENS**

LONDON, March 24.—Jackies from the American flotillas stationed off the Irish coast have been woeing the Irish maidens and during the last month marriages have averaged about one a day.

One romance culminated when a sailor named Groff married Nora, second daughter of Lady Carroll, whose late husband was a prominent official of Queenstown.

**Guide's Flowers For Easter.**  
Place orders early for Guide's fresh cut flowers and blooming plants. 1214 F. Adv.

Children's Rib HOSE, 25c  
Fine white or black rib hose, seamless foot. Sizes 5 1/2 to 9 1/2.  
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ASK FOR STAMPS—VALUABLE PRESENTS FREE.

A Wonderful Display—Extraordinary Sale of  
**NEW EASTER SUITS**  
Values, \$16, \$20, \$22.50, \$25 and \$29.75  
**\$11.88 \$13.97 \$19.95**

Wonderful is the word that best describes the value, style, quality and workmanship on this beautiful lot of stylish Easter Suits. You can effect a genuine saving at a worth while price. It will pay to investigate our offers; you can be well dressed at economy figures.

Child's 32c UNION SUIT, 39c	59c SCARFS & SHAMS, 39c	Women's 15c VESTS, 12 1/2c	10c Extra Size VESTS, 15c	50c Knit PANTS, 39c
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Fine cotton rib, seamless and short drawers. Made on fine looms, to 12 holes; at a low price for early buyers.

Fine cotton rib, full size, taped neck and armholes. Made on fine looms, to 12 holes; at a low price for early buyers.

Swiss ribbed, cotton vests, size in neck and armholes. Full size to 44.

Fine cotton, 10, multi-band, open style, lace cotton, p. a. t. Size 36 to 38.

Special Prices for Easter, on  
**WOMEN'S PUMPS** \$2.55  
Patent Leather, Gun Metal, and White Canvas Pumps. All sizes.

An Easter Special in  
**Boys' Suits** \$6.95

A snappy line of boys' mixed suits including dark patterns as well as all-wool blue serges and dark blue worsteds. A wonderful value that will more than please you. We invite your inspection of these suits. Sizes 6 to 17.

**Misses' Pumps, \$1.95**  
Patent Leather, Gun Metal, and White Canvas Pumps. All sizes.

MEN'S LEATHER BELTS, 25c	BOYS' SPRING HATS, 59c	OTIS UNDERWEAR, 75c	New Ribbon NECK CORDS, 25c	50c Silk HOSE, 39c
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Black and tan leather belts for men, 25 to 42.

In straw and cloth. In solid colors, these hats are big values for 59c.

White fine underwear for men. It is worth considerably more. All sizes 36 to 40.

Beautiful color, in combination of black and white.

Fine fiber silk, in black, white, gray, and other perfect quality.

Girls' \$6 Check  
**COATS** \$4.98  
6 to 14 years  
Full lined, just arrived styles, in striped check, cord, belted, pockets, and neatly trimmed in blue silk poplin.

For Monday Only, a Sale of \$5  
**Trimmed Hats** \$3.98  
A genuine special reduction on the noblest styles of the year. Ribbon, flower, wreath, and other trimmings.

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