

MEHUN NEWS

VOL. 1

ATELIER de MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE, (CHER), FRANCE, FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1919

NO. 11

REPRESENTATIVES AT REPAIR SHOPS

House Military Committee Spent Hour Viewing Shops Last Saturday

The House of Representatives Military Committee inspected the Ordnance Repair Shops, Saturday, arriving from Gievres at 1:40 P. M. Secretary Baker was not in the party as originally planned but may visit the Repair Shops at a later date. Members of the party were Representatives Dent, Tilson, Hull, Anthony, Fields, Caldwell, La Guardia, Morris, Nichols, Green, Harrison, Miller and Crago. Military men accompanying the party were Major Gen. Snow, Brig. Gen. Parker, Col. Holderness, Lt. Col. Hammond, Major Balentine, Capt. Blakely and Lts. Comstock and Seton.

Col. C. M. Wesson, Commanding Officer of the Repair Shops and Col. D. M. King, in charge of Ordnance Personnel in the A. E. F., met the visitors and conducted them on their tour of the shops. Each Congressman was also accompanied by a shops' officer. As the different divisions were inspected the officer in charge explained its workings.

After a stop of an hour and a half the party departed for Chaumont, expressing regret that their schedule did not permit a longer stay in which to inspect more thoroughly the interesting work of Ordnance repair.

OLDEST SERGEANTS LEAVE

The convoy of German guns leaving this week under command of Lieut. H. C. Gruwell, has with it two of the oldest Ordnance sergeants in the army. Ord. Sgt. Wm. E. Lafoe has been in the service 22 years and Ord. Sgt. C. Williams has seen 20 years' service. Both men have headed the evacuation list since their arrival in camp, as both have been in France over 18 months and have wives in the States, but they remained until their services could be more easily spared.

S. O. S. GENERALS HERE

The new Commanding General of the Intermediate Section, Maj.-Gen. Wm. H. Hay, paid a visit to the Repair Shops on Wednesday. The following day Brig.-Gen. Hugh Drum was here for an inspection of the plant. General Drum is the new Chief of Staff of the S. O. S., replacing General Connor, who is now Commanding General of the Supply of the Third Army.

OFFICERS' PISTOL TOURNAMENT

An officer's "Shoot" has been arranged for 1 P. M. Saturday between the officers of the Military Department and the Shops Department in answer to a challenge from Major Doe of the Shops Department.

The Military Dept. team is composed of Major Sabin, Captains French Thompson and Westlake, and Lieuts. Thompson and Reed. Major Doe is backed up by Captains Tompkins, Felstead, Dodge, Brest and Hanley, and Lieuts. Wilder, Phelps and Wilmet. The five best shooters will be organized into a camp team to represent Mehun.

CAISSONS SHIPPED QUICKLY

A great stride forward in cleaning up the artillery overhauling work of the Ordnance Repair Shops was made this week when authority was received from Ordnance Headquarters to ship all German caissons and limbers to the ports. Two trainloads of caissons were received Tuesday, and to speed up the work it was decided to hold the cars on a siding and do the work of cleaning, greasing and painting the vehicles right on the train. The entire force of 550 men of the Artillery Repair Shop, armed with brushes, grease and paint pots made a record drive and prepared the lot of over 600 caissons for re-shipment in two days, only a little more time than would have been consumed in unloading and reloading them.

MILITARY DEPT. HAS BIG JOB

Provides For Workmen In Hours Not Spent At Shops

The operation of a great machine plant such as this in the States requires the hiring of workmen for a given period of 8 or 10 hours a day. What happens to the workman the remainder of the day is usually a matter of little concern to the employer. But at Mehun we have an example of a great plant operated by soldiers far away from their homes and remote from the base of supplies. The average number of enlisted men employed in the shops and warehouses has been 2,400, with an addition of 200 Frenchwomen and 800 Chinamen. The shops employ these men for eight hours a day. The rest of the time they are under the care of the Military Department, whose function it is to provide barracks, food, clothing and entertainment for all men in camp.

The Military Department has six main divisions: Administration, Personnel, Company Administration, Supply, Entertainment and Camp Construction. All issuing of orders and passes, and the organization of companies or convoys is handled through the Administration or Adjutant's Office. As soon as the man reports here from another station the Personnel Office interviews him and makes a

(continued on page 10.)

PRESS SPECIAL HERE MONDAY

The second A. E. F. Press Special to visit Mehun will arrive at the Repair Shops next Monday at 4:30 from Gievres. So as to show the shops in operation the entire force will be given a four-hour mid-day recess, reporting for work in the afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Two hundred men of the A. E. F., who were newspaper men in civilian life, are on the train. The trip is provided by G. H. Q., through the "Stars and Stripes," and covers the Base, Int., and Advance Sections of the A. E. F.

The Mehun News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE ORDNANCE TROOPS
AT ATELIER DE MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE, A. P. O. 741.

Commanding Officer	- - -	Col. C. M. Wesson
Asst. to C. O.	- - -	Maj. G. S. Brady
Military Dept.	- - -	Lt.-Col. A. G. Gillespie
Inspection Dept.	- - -	Lt.-Col. A. D. Hubbard
Shops Dept.	- - -	Maj. W. W. Doe
Stores Dept.	- - -	Capt. O. V. Dodge

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Ord. Sgt. J. C. Zang,	Cpl. L. H. Flournoy

Mechanical Staff:

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Pvt. 1/c M. D. Shankland.		
Cpl. H. W. Davis, Staff Cartoonist		
Ord. Sgt. Richard C. Greer, Staff Photographer		

No Silver Chevrons

Many men in the A. E. F. have begun to wear the silver service chevron with their gold chevrons. As most of our Ordnance men have had over six months' service in the United States before coming to France, we have received many inquiries as to whether or not they are entitled to put on the silver chevron. This matter is covered by War Department General Orders Nos. 6, 53 and 122, of 1918, which state: "The silver chevron will not be worn by those required to wear either the gold or blue war service chevron."

When Do We Go Home?

The Second Army disbanded as an organization April 15th, the First Army on April 25th. The troops forming these armies are being returned to the evacuation centers at Le Mans and elsewhere to be sent home as fast as ships are available. There is being established at Antwerp an S. O. S. for the Army of Occupation, and after May 15th all supplies for the army will be distributed by this organization.

All troops, except the Army of Occupation, should be well out of France in a few months, and the question we are asking ourselves is, "Shall we be included?" Let us examine the situation. We have received since December 1st 5,549 carloads of material and have shipped out 3,033. Most of the shipments were made after February 1st; in March we shipped 977 cars, and this month to the 20th 991 cars, so that we should exceed 1,300 cars in April. There were 996 carloads of artillery here on April 23rd and about 1,000 more to come in, from the best information that can be obtained; these, when added to 500 carloads of miscellaneous material, give a total of approximately 2,500 carloads. From past experience we should be able to get out in a little over two months.

All pressure possible is being brought

to bear on the disposition of stores and the sale of unserviceable salvage. Two hundred additional French women will be at work by the 27th, and also a number of French optical repair men. The Commanding General, Intermediate Section, is endeavoring to provide 200 additional Chinamen to aid us in cleaning up. The end now appears in sight for the great majority of us if we apply ourselves with diligence to our allotted task. Let us bear in mind that each hour that there is any slacking by ourselves, the Chinese, Frenchwomen, Frenchmen or labor troops, our home-going is the longer deferred.

IRELAND AS A LEAVE AREA

BY SGT. A. C. PRENDERGAST

Ireland isn't called "The Emerald Isle" for nothing, and the visitor, no matter what time of year he comes, is bound to carry away with him a mental picture of green fields and pastures with little whitewashed cottages dotting the landscape. There is no brown, sun-baked summer season there.

The American soldier fortunate enough to get a leave to Ireland need not worry about enjoying himself. Irish hospitality is proverbial, and he will keep stored away in his memory a list of the things he had to eat, with Irish ham and bacon ranking high among them. No food regulations at all except for sugar, and the meals are many and frequent. I believe that every American army visitor gets converted to afternoon tea with its accompanying side dishes.

Ireland is easily reached in a ten hour trip from London by rail to Holyhead, Wales, and then by boat to Dublin. The journey should be made in the day time if possible on account of the fine mountain scenery in North Wales en route to Holyhead. It is also possible to cross in a few hours from Scotland to Belfast, the big manufacturing city of the north, whose linen mills are worth a visit if one has the time. Belfast and Dublin are only three hours apart by rail.

In Dublin there is considerable of historic interest to see—the old Irish House of Parliament, now the Bank of Ireland, Trinity College, Dublin Castle and the Custom House. Along Sackville street formerly the main business buildings are in ruins as a result of the Sinn Fein uprising in 1916.

The Killarney district is perhaps the best to visit, as in addition to the famous lakes, which are fully as beauti-

MEHUN MUTTERINGS

By 525th Engineers.

Each day finds Mehun more and more Americanized. The latest advent is the Mehun Opera House at the Engineer Camp, which is near the main part of the town. This house is on the Intermediate Circuit and the Entertainment Officer in charge is First Lieutenant Frank R. Bates, V. C.

"Old Man" Ruiz claims that he never met a man in the Army who stole anything but certainly knows quite a number of fellows who "salvaged" something or other.

"Billiards" Harrel says he's not worrying about the States going dry. He's getting his, says Joe.

No, no, Oswald, you are not entitled to wound chevrons for wounds acquired in a French barber shop.

A fellow came running into the office all out of breath and said: "Hey, where can I hide? There's a crazy Chinaman running after me with a knife." "Buffalo Bill" Torino says: "Jump into the index file and he'll never find you." Mike ought to know; he's the "fileless filing filer."

ful as the poets declare, there are Muckross Abbey and Muckross Castle, two famous ruins, close by, and also the scenic drive along the cliffs bordering Bantry Bay and the Kerry coast. Blarney Castle, with its Blarney stone, can also be visited on the Killarney trip.

The Giants' Causeway is another noted point of interest, but the visitor had better scan the time tables thoroughly before starting, as it is not so easily reached as Killarney. But, although Killarney and the Causeway are a long way from Dublin, one need not go far in Ireland to find beautiful scenery and ruined castles.

But, after all, the real charm of Ireland is its people. When asked for directions, the London bobby says: "first to the right, third to the left," in a most businesslike fashion, but the Dublin policeman is likely to smile a very friendly smile and reply: "So it is to Dawson street you'll wish to be getting, is it? Well, you go this way to get there." There is no adequate way to describe how hospitable, cordial and witty the Irish people are. They must be seen and talked with to be appreciated. Ask any American soldier back from his leave to Ireland and he will tell you the Irish are just as funny as our theatres at home show them to be and twice as delightful.

THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT IN THE A. E. F.

A Short History of the Development and Accomplishments of the American Ordnance Work in France—Compiled by O. C. O. O., Tours.

THE establishment of the Ordnance Department, A. E. F., dates from May 26, 1917, when its headquarters were established in Washington, D. C. by General Order No. 1. Two days later, Lt. Col. C. C. Williams (later Major General, Chief of Ordnance), then Chief Ordnance Officer, A. E. F., left for France with General Pershing on the "Baltic." He landed in France about two weeks later and entered immediately into active work at the first Ordnance Hdqrs., 149 Blvd. Hausman, and later, 10 Rue St. Anne, Paris.

The overwhelming problem which the first Chief Ordnance Officer faced, and which he and his successors completely solved, was that of securing, storing, distributing and maintaining Ordnance material in France on a scale immensely greater than anything in American experience. There were no precedents.

The base of supplies was 3,000 submarine-infested miles distant, and conference was limited to cable courier. The United States, in spite of magnificent preparations under way, was

wholly unready for the industry of war, and its manufacturing facilities must be reconstructed or constructed entirely anew before the flood of munitions from that source could begin to pour in. Meanwhile material must be procured in enormous quantities to arm our troops until American plants got into action.

The essence of the achievement of the Ordnance Department, A. E. F., is that it has met the demands thus made upon it, though they were thrice multiplied—first, by hugely increased schedules of troop sailings to France; second, by greatly accelerated programs of military offensives; third, by expenditures of ammunition by the American forces enormously exceeding the French and British experience which had been assumed as a standard.

To effect the distribution of the material alone, a score of great ammunition and general storage depots and

many smaller army depots were stretched in multiple chains across France from the base ports to the front, together with an effective storage and supply system. To repair the guns, vehicles and other equipment, more than twenty-five important shops were erected, equipped and operated, the chief of them being designed on a scale sufficient of itself to repair the artillery for an army of two million men. To train the personnel six large Ordnance schools and a dozen smaller centers of instruction were established, and at these nearly 5,000 officers and men were educated in the highly specialized work of the Department. All these things had to be planned and built from the ground up. And concurrently, to supply the material of war for the offensives up to the time of the armistice, sources of procurement were found and purchases made

and maintenance system that you established was a great success, and the results obtained under existing circumstances reflect great credit upon the officers and enlisted men of your Department. Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. PERSHING.

An equally emphatic expression appears in an official report on Operations made by the Commander-in-Chief after the signing of the armistice:

"As to the more technical services, the able personnel of the Ordnance Department in France has splendidly fulfilled its functions both in procurement and in forwarding the immense quantities of Ordnance required."

(General Pershing's Report to the Secretary of War, Nov. 20, 1918.)

The First Steps

The board appointed by General Pershing, of which Lt.-Col. C. C. Williams was the senior member, met on



A CORNER OF THE ORDNANCE REPAIR SHOPS, MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE, FRANCE

of artillery, ammunition, trench mortars and shells, machine guns, tanks and equipment, aggregating a half million tons and more than a half billion of dollars.

The work accomplished by the Ordnance Department, A. E. F., may be best summarized in General Pershing's own words to Brig.-Gen. J. H. Rice, Chief Ordnance Officer, as contained in the former's letter of February 19, as follows:

"During active operations extending from January, 1918, when our first Division entered the line, until the close of hostilities on November 11th, our troops were supplied with the equipment and ammunition necessary to carry their work to a successful conclusion, I realize the tremendous difficulties of organization and administration which had to be overcome for your Department to properly fulfil its functions in this respect. The repair

board the "Baltic" en route to France, and recommended that the American army should in the beginning use French artillery, this policy being eventually extended to include additional French and Brit-

ish munitions, machine guns and trench warfare materiel. There were several important considerations that led to these recommendations, among which were the long period that must elapse before this particular material could be produced in quantity in the United States, and the willingness and ability of the French and British to furnish the material from the surplus capacity of the plants they had created for their initial supplies, which were now more than adequate to meet their demands for replacement. To carry out the policy established by the adoption of the above recommendations, all purchasing by the United States in Europe was concentrated in a General Purchasing Board established in Paris, August 30, 1917. Col. E. D. Bricker was designated as the Ord. representative on that Board on his arrival in France late in October, 1917, and in that capacity established the Ord-

nance Purchasing Office in Paris, of which he was placed in charge. This position he still held at the signing of the armistice.

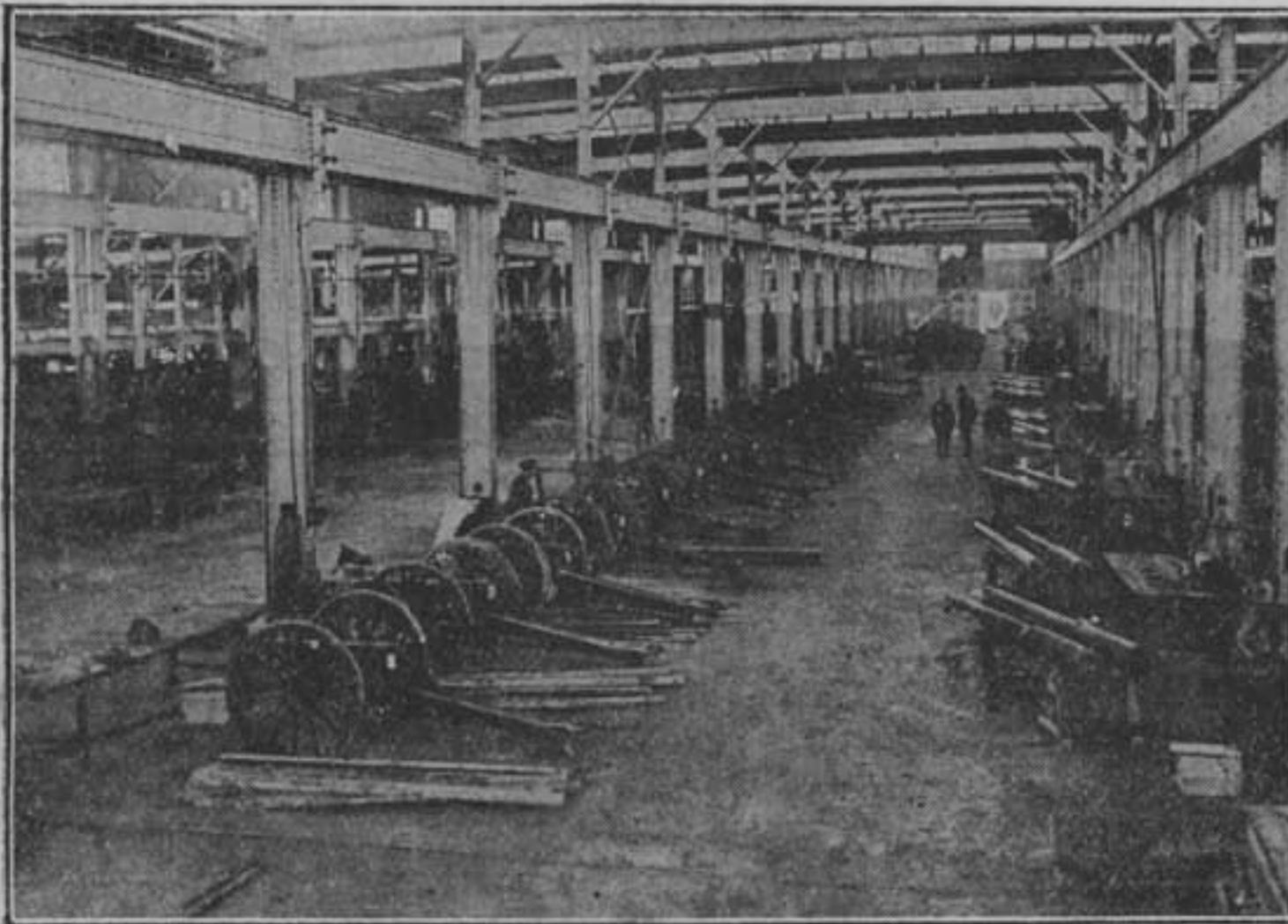
The first organization of the O. C. O. O. Headquarters, S. O. S., was made April 10, 1918. On May 9, a further development of the work of the O. C. O. O. along generally similar lines was effected by Colonel Jordan. General Williams had returned to America in April to become Chief of Ordnance, being succeeded as Chief Ordnance Officer by Brig.-Gen. C. B. Wheeler, who arrived early in May, spent some weeks inspecting activities in France, and shortly thereafter grouped the department into the form under which it has operated up to the present date. This organization which is along lines of activities, first created the following divisions: Administration, Requirements, Supply, Construction and Maintenance, Engineering. On Oct. 9, 1918, Brig.-Gen. J. H. Rice became Chief Ordnance Officer, succeeding General Wheeler, who went to London as Ordnance Officer of Base Section No. 3, relieving Brig.-Gen. Geo. W. Burr, who had been in charge of that section since April 8, 1918. Gen. Rice is still in command as Chief Ordnance Officer; he has bound the Divisions more closely together and added a Personnel Division as the work connected with personnel handling has become too heavy to be longer carried as a section of the Administration Division.

For carrying on the general work of the Ordnance Department, A. E. F., especially those activities relating to supply and maintenance of material, the general division of Ordnance activities into base, intermediate and advance sections was worked out. The base section, which includes the ports, is the great reservoir of Ordnance material facilities into which the initial supplies are poured. The intermediate section is the regulating mechanism taking up fluctuations of supply and demand. The advance section is the sensitive system in direct touch with the army and responsive to its needs from day to day.

Requirements, Procurement and Supply

For the purpose of maintenance and reserves, it was planned to keep 45 days' supply in the base section, 30 days' in the intermediate section and 15 days' in the advance section. Owing to the activity of operations and the enormous demands for material at the front, this ideal was not realized, but approach to it was being made by the summer of 1918.

In conjunction with this established proportion and distribution of reserves the "Automatic Supply Tables" were worked out to keep our troops' supplies, with as little bookkeeping as possible and with small possibility of error. This table was computed for each article, in the number of units necessary to supply 25,000 men for one month, allowing a liberal percentage for losses in transit or storage. The



THE ARTILLERY REPAIR SHOP, MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE, FRANCE

base figure thus determined gave the numbers of each article which the Ordnance Department would require each month for each 25,000 men in the A. E. F. As the army grew in size, the quantities of every article needed for its equipment were thus automatically listed for shipment from the United States or from European sources, and came forward, without further notification, in an ever-increasing flow. In other words, normal requirements were filled automatically and special action was needed only in case of changes, additions, demand for unusual articles, or other extraordinary developments.

Procurement, as just indicated, was from two great sources — the United States, through the office of the Chief of Ordnance; and European govern-

ments and manufacturers through the Ordnance Purchasing Officer in Paris. The Ordnance Purchasing Office, on account of the policy of using Allied artillery ammunition already referred to, and the temporary shortage in the United States of some other items, procurable and therefore purchased in France, was a very important activity.

Purchase was made by this office on the authority of requisitions received from the Office of the Chief Ordnance Officer, A. E. F., and were placed direct, or referred to the Ordnance Officer of Base Section No. 3 (London), in case the purchase was to be made in Great Britain. Materials were obtained in France, England, Spain, Italy and Switzerland, partly (especially in France and England), through the governments, and partly through merchants and manufacturers,

and generally on the understanding that the United States would replace material received with a like amount of raw material. 440,000 tons of raw material was shipped to France under this agreement between April 1, and November 11, 1918. Some of the more important items bought in France were: 514 tanks, 3,035 75-mm. guns, 1,190 155-mm. howitzers, 5,011,000 rds. 75-mm. ammunition, 2,909,200 rds. trench mortar ammunition, 30,000,000 fuses, 3,000,000 bombs, 9,592 Hotchkiss

machine guns and 40,000 Chauchat automatic rifles; from France also were procured pyrotechnics and some hand grenades. Among the interesting purchases from British sources might be mentioned 122 9.2-in. howitzers, 212 8-in. howitzers, 2,550 3-in. Stokes mortars and 865 6-in. Newton mortars. Not all of these purchases had been delivered before the signing of the armistice, but the schedule of delivery had been lived up to, and the Department bears cordial tribute to the generous and whole-souled co-operation of the Allied Governments in furnishing munitions for the armies we were hurrying into the field.

A great gain in efficiency of storehouse operation resulted from the introduction of the British system in

place of the earlier used American system of depot handling. Under the latter, one set of men and records attempted to cover the entire list of possibly 32,000 items included in Ordnance supplies. Under the British system, Ordnance material was divided into eight homogenous groups with a special organization, office, and record system for each group. Incoming requisitions were broken up into group issue orders, each one of which covered the only material listed under one group. After filling these orders, the materials were assembled into cars or trains bound for similar destinations. The main office transcribed all transactions for general reports to headquarters, and from their inventory records made up the requisitions for the materials necessary to keep the stocks up to the 45, 30, or 15 days' supply prescribed.

In the storage of Ordnance material, a sharp division had to be made between general Ordnance stores which required only the ordinary conditions of warehousing and access to transportation, and the storage of ammunition, which on account of its dangerous character, must be handled far from centers of population and in warehouses specially constructed and widely distributed in small units to minimize the dangers of, or loss from explosion.

The principal general Ordnance storage depots were as follows: in the base section at Montoir, serving the ports of St. Nazaire and Nantes, with 480,000 sq. ft. completed; at St. Sulpice, serving the port at Bordeaux with 125,000 sq. ft. completed and 200,000 sq. ft. authorized; at Aigrefeuille, serving the ports of La Rochelle, La Pallice and Rochefort, with 62,400 sq. ft. authorized at Brest, with 25,000 sq. ft. authorized; and at Miramas, serving the port of Marseille, with 30,000 sq. ft. completed.

General intermediate depots were at Gievres, with 320,000 sq. ft. completed and 59,800 sq. ft. authorized; at Montier-chaume, with 362,000 sq. ft. authorized; and at Mehun with 120,000 sq. ft. authorized.

The advance depots were at Is-sur-Tille, with 120,000 sq. ft. completed and at Liffol-le-Grand with 12,000 sq. ft. authorized.

Ammunition storage depots were located as follows: in the base section at Usine Brulee, with 45,000 sq. ft. completed; at Donges, with 405,000 sq. ft. under construction; at Montoir, with 110,000 sq. ft. completed and 25,000 sq. ft. under construction. All these served the ports of St. Nazaire and Nantes. In addition the ammu-

nition storage depot at St. Loubes, serving the port of Bordeaux, had 300,000 sq. ft. completed and 240,000 sq. ft. under construction.

Intermediate ammunition storage depots were at Foecy, with 410,000 sq. ft. completed and 210,000 sq. ft. under construction; at Issoudun, with 420,000 sq. ft. completed and 45,000 sq. ft. under construction; and at Le Cors, with 124,000 sq. ft. under construction. The advance ammunition storage depot was at Joncherry, with 300,000 sq. ft. completed and 175,000 sq. ft. under construction.

In addition to these, a number of army depots were operated at points convenient to rail-heads and sufficiently near the battle area to permit direct delivery of supplies to troops engaged therein. These depots were situated at Dongermain, Toul, Vaubecourt, Parois, Void, Souhemes-le-Grand, Blenod-les-Toul, Saizerais, Nixeville, Brabant-en-Argonne, Les Islettes,

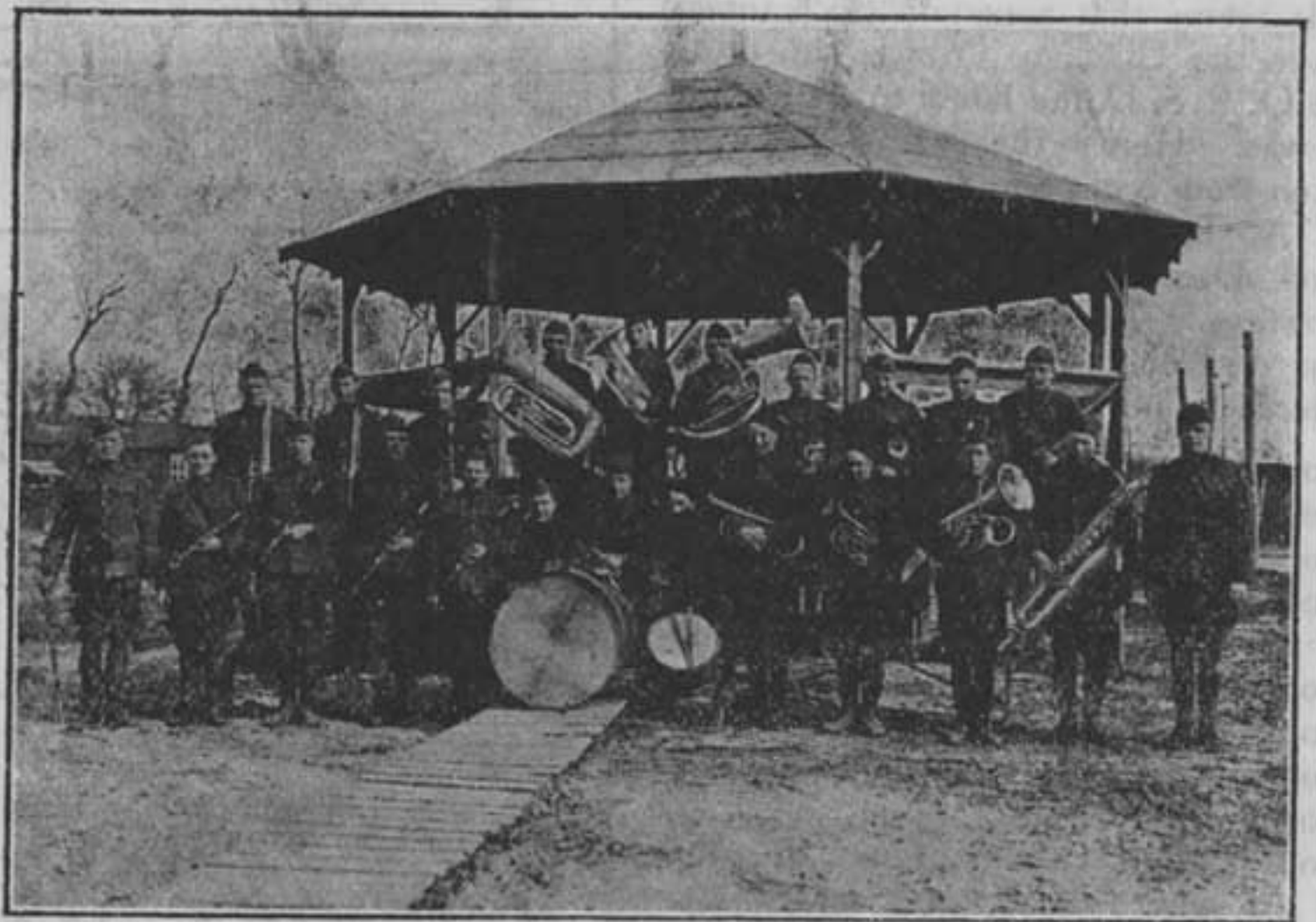
Chatel Chehery, and Chattancourt.
Repair Facilities

The Ordnance repair shops, like the depots, extended from base section up to the advance area. The largest general repair establishment was the Base Ordnance shop at Mehun-sur-Yevre which is the physical expression in France of the original project for the American Ordnance Base Depot in France as modified to meet existing conditions. Much of the original material and equipment was temporarily diverted to establish repair facilities
(continued on page 7)

BELGIAN HOWITZER CAPTURED

One of the guns marked as captured by the 1st Division, U. S. Army, is a 21 mm. Belgian howitzer which was made by Krupp in 1891 for the Belgians; captured from them by the Germans and later recaptured by the American Doughboys.

THE ORDNANCE BAND



Second Lt. D. A. Thompson, Company Commander; Sgt. 1/c Reginald W. Earnshaw, Director; Corp. Lou A. Putcell, Drum Major; Sgt. Edward E. Anderson, Pvt. 1/c Leo M. Ash, Sgt. Washington D. Barker, Sgt. George C. Bergman, Pvt. Frederick C. Burdette, Pvt. Henry V. Donovan, Ord. Sgt. William F. Dougherty, Pvt. Roy M. Driscoll, Corp. Edward T. Flannery, Sgt. James M. Gibbs, Corp. Thomas H. Hacker, Sgt. Earl V. Hildreth, Corp. Donald Hitt, Pvt. 1/c George B. Hunt, Pvt. Henry W. Ivey, Pvt. 1/c Chester R. Kingstedt, Pvt. Herbert E. Nelson, Ord. Sgt. Elmer C. Scott, Pvt. 1/c Ralph A. Siferd, Pvt. Carl V. Smith, Pvt. Walter S. Sullivan, Pvt. George A. Sweernam, Pvt. Lacy E. Townsend, Pvt. Richard J. Walsh, Pvt. Elmer D. Yeo

The band was organized at Camp Dodge, Iowa, the latter part of January, 1918. Came overseas with Company C, Second Battalion, and arrived at Mehun April 12, 1918. Left Mehun the 15th of May and arrived at Is-sur-Tille May 16. Was stationed at Is-sur-Tille until January 14, 1919. Sent to Mehun from Is-

sur-Tille for evacuation January 15.

Since that time all the members of the Ordnance Band with the exception of two have been evacuated to the States. The band has lost, by evacuation, 33 men since being reorganized February 4, 1919, in this camp. It now consists of 26 pieces. Concerts are given at noon and night.

CAMP TATTLER

We notice in last week's issue of THE MEHUN NEWS that we now have a Chinwah hooshow adorning our landscape. Since then we have the information that it contains ten inhabitants. This shows that the Chinwahs are also helping to hold that well known sector of Cognac-sur-Rhum.

"Hank" Tustin, one time member of the N. Y. police force, now corporaling in the Blacksmith Shop, received a letter from his former chief thanking him for his work in the A. E. F. Hank is sure glad to know that someone back in the good old U. S. A. knows what the life of an Ordnance corporal means.

It has been suggested that "Butcher" Frick and "Joiso" Sheridan be relieved from the task of delivering meat to the company mess halls—either man could be replaced by "Atrest" Feeney who has a far spread reputation of delivering the bull.

Where is Mehun?

At last we are becoming known.

It seems that a certain A. Kanter wrote the Chicago Tribune and did the O. R. S. D. the honor to ask where it was. Here's the Trib.'s answer taken from a clipping:

"A. Kanter. — Ordnance Repair Shop Detachments are at Mehun, Germany. This unit is not a part of any division. They have not been ordered home yet."

From Reveille and all bugle calls,
From A grouchy barracks sergeant,
From French mud,
From Moving day with all its troubles,

From "M. P.'s" and Sunday details,
From Cooties and the French itch,
From "Hommes 40, Chevaux 8"
From "Submarine chicken,"

From The man who thinks he can talk French, and insists on proving it,

From The guy who always crabs,
Good Lord, deliver us.

We were in the Infirmary the other day and the name "Tony Spagoni" was called and he complained of a sore throat. The doctor looked down his throat and said to Tony: "Say, 'ah-h-h-h.'" Tony said: "Me no spik Ingles."

We quote ad verbatim from a sign board on the street of Mehun; "Speed Limit 10 Kil's per Hour." One of the drivers claims he's doing his best but they all jump out of the way.

"Chubby" Flournoy, the scrappy news reporter of THE MEHUN NEWS has been selected to accompany the news writers on their next tour of the A. E. F. "Chubby" left camp Tuesday evening bound for Parea. His equipment consisted of a big smile and a lead pencil. The boys of his barracks all wished him good luck and hope his absence from overalls and daily shaves will be lengthy.

Lieut. Schaller reading a tourist's description of the Cher valley—"pastoral French villages notched into steep hillsides, the red tiled roofs a vivid dash of color on green fields, marked with the pink of early fruit blossom, the modest blue of the violet and the snowy whiteness of grazing cows," pauses to remark, "Some villages! Some violets! Some cows!"

155 MM. G. P. F.'S AT SHOPS

One of the guns in the Artillery Repair Shops attracting the attention of the House Military Committee while on a tour of the shops Saturday was a split-trail type 155 mm. G. P. F. gun. It is one of the most modern developments of heavy artillery by the French. A feature of its construction is the ease and speed with which the long, heavy barrel is traversed and elevated into firing positions. About 150 of these guns have been overhauled at these shops.

Last week 296 carloads of artillery and small arms were received and 205 carloads were overhauled and shipped out.

MAJOR SABIN SEES THE SUN



The Ordnance Department in A. E. F.

(continued from page 5.)

urgently needed in the intermediate and advanced zone. The main project, however, was being re-established and in larger part was in operation or coming into operation at the time of the Armistice. The intention was to erect at this point shops capable of making major and minor repairs for the Ordnance of an army of 2,000,000 men. They were to have a capacity for relining 1,245 guns per month, from 75 mm. to 155 mm. in caliber. The carriage shop was designed to repair approximately 2,000 Ordnance gun vehicles per month, the small-arms shop was to care for 150,000 rifles, 5,000 pistols and 20,000 machine guns per month. In addition there was to be an up-to-date forge shop, foundry, wood-working shop, truck and tractor shop and acetylene plant.

Next to Mehun the most important plant was the main advance shop at Is-sur-Tille with facilities for artillery and small arms repair, fine machine work and tool making, wood-working, and the repair of optical instruments and the salvage of equipment. On Nov. 11th there were in addition to these two, 22 minor shops operating, located as follows: Angers, Angouleme, Bourges (operated by Tank Corps,) Clermont-Ferrand, Coetquidan, Colombey-les-Belles (operated by Aircraft Armament Section, Eng. Div.,) Doulaincourt, Haussimont, La Courtine, Langres, (experimental shop,) Le Courneau, Libourne, Limoges, Meucou, Orly Field (operated by Aircraft Armament Section, Eng. Div.,) Romorantin (operated by Aircraft Armament Section, Eng. Div.,) St. Jean-de-Monts, Samour, Souge, Valdahon, Void.

Mobile Ordnance Repair Shops

Further still to the front than the Army Shops were the Heavy Artillery Mobile Repair Shops which were in fact small self-contained machine shops mounted on standard truck chassis and special trailers capable of following the Army in action. These shops comprised such units as tool room, air compressor, forge, equipment repair and office truck, and lathe, welding and cutting, drill presses, shaper, milling-machine and stock-room trailers, with accompanying machine-gun trucks, staff observation car, rolling kitchen, and motorcycle with side-car for dispatch work. The Mobile Ordnance Repair Shops, which operated still nearer the front, were attached to divisions and Army parks, and had a complete small machine and hand tool

equipment for making minor repairs on artillery materiel, automatic weapons, small arms, motor equipment, personal and horse equipment.

The Mobile Ordnance Repair Shops were one of America's most important contributions to the problem of adequately and quickly repairing materiel so as to keep it in action, and in many cases carrying out repair work which the French did not attempt in the field. An idea of their accomplishments is best given by a few specific examples. The 2nd M. O. R. S. on the Soissons front put into action against the retreating Germans 28 pieces of their own artillery, ranging from 77 mm. to 210 mm. An American Division located very far forward on one flank had been abandoned, but the cannon-eers remained at their guns until the French infantry, which had been holding their lines in the front, had passed behind them to the rear. They then removed the connection between each gun and its recoil cylinder and fired a round, permitting the gun to recoil completely off its carriage and thus doing sufficient damage to prevent its immediate use. This materiel was recaptured by the Division two or three days later. It was turned over to the Divisional Mobile Ordnance Repair Shop, which within a few days made the necessary repairs and restored the guns and mounts to serviceable condition. The M. O. R. S. attached to the 35th Division established the reputation of having no piece in the artillery out of action over five minutes during the Argonne drive. Guns and recoils were replaced in carriages during action, and the removal of shells stuck in guns came to be a regular function in which various ingenious methods were employed. Other jobs performed by these Mobile Ord. Repair Shops were furnishing of tools for the 75 mm. and the 155 mm. howitzers, supposed to be furnished by the French but not available, the manufacture of special tools for artillery work, the repair of water carts, rolling kitchens, bicycles, typewriters, shower baths, watches, meat grinders, steam rollers, stone crushers, trench pumps, the repair and operation of captured German baths and delousing plants, and the handling of salvage work at the front.

Ordnance Engineering

The scope of the work of the Engineering Division is generally indicated in the definition of their functions already given. One of their great accomplishments in the A. E. F. was the motorization of the 155-mm. howitzer and 75-mm. field gun regi-

ments. At the time of the armistice, the Engineering Division was working on the problem of mounting artillery of the various calibers, including trench mortars, on tractors. This promised to be one of the most influential achievements of the war, as it would eventually have effected enormous changes in a campaign of open fighting.

The work done in connection with the aircraft armament was another great engineering contribution to the Allied victory. It covered substantially completing the equipment of the planes which the French government was unable to turn over fully equipped, and included all matters connected with the installation of armament. Machine shops at Courbevoie were taken over and operated, installation fields provided, depots established or adapted, and experimental grounds located at Choisy-le-Roi, Clermont-Ferrand and St. Jean-de-Monts, where the training school for armament officers and personnel was situated.

Ordnance Personnel and Schools of Instruction

In addition to the huge problems of supply and caring for material, the Ordnance Department, A. E. F., faced the gigantic task of filling requirements for personnel which were estimated to reach a total of 74,000 officers and men by the end of the year 1918. A total of 1,803 officers and 12,205 men were on duty in the department at the date of the armistice. The Personnel Division has worked out carefully studied requirements of men and officers by grades, by months, for each Division in the O. C. O. O., A. E. F., for the S. O. S., and for personnel in the army area. These schedules called for 2,145 officers and 25,330 men in all to satisfy immediate needs. In order to qualify large numbers of these Ordnance personnel for their highly specialized work, two general systems were provided—the Organization and Training Centers, and the Ordnance Schools.

Organization and Training Centers were under the supervision of the Construction and Maintenance Division and were established in connection with certain shops where equipment and expert personnel was already assembled for the work of repairing Ordnance material. Instruction was a combination of lectures given by the Ordnance officers in charge of the shops and by expert repair men and practical instruction obtained by assigning students to work in the shops with skilled workmen. These courses

were given at Angers, Angouleme, Clermont - Ferrand, Libourne and Limoges.

Ordnance Schools of Instruction were conducted first under the Engineering Division and later were transferred to the Personnel Division. Their courses of instruction included stock-keeping and army accountability, and in the functioning and handling, dis-assembly, re-assembly and repair of various types of Ordnance material. The following schools were operated by the Personnel Division of the Ordnance Department: St. Aignan, courses in office procedure, handling of stores and shipments, minor repairs, care and nomenclature of Ordnance material; St. Jean-de-Monts, aerial armament course; Is-sur-Tille, small and automatic arms course, course in artillery material, course in Ordnance supply, and Ordnance shop courses; Jonchery, Foecy and Bourges, ammunition schools. There were also courses in motor equipment at various points, and a staff school for Ordnance officers.

Supply and Maintenance in the Army Area

In the army areas, the Ordnance Department, making the best of the great shortages of transportation and personnel that were general throughout the A. E. F., conceived, created and operated an extension of the supply and maintenance system which earned the commendation of commanders of line troops, from companies and batteries to armies. For general supplies, army depots were established. These, replenishing their stocks by trainload shipments from the S. O. S., made immediate emergency issues to troops in the line on the verbal request of an officer, in the space of time required for the loading of the desired article from the warehouse into the waiting truck. Where no emergency existed, they filled even the largest requisitions with a minimum of formality and a maximum of promptness, the average time required for the obtaining of supplies by an organization being reduced by their operation from between two and four weeks to an average of 24 hours. One of these depots alone,

that at Souhemes, handled more than 600 different articles, its issues ranging from 105,483 canteens to one, Singer sewing machine; its average daily issues of mess equipment were 1,500.

For small arms supplies, special depots were established at Void and Vaubecourt and later at Parois. These depots issued machine guns, automatic rifles and pistols, either direct to troops or through the Mobile Ordnance Repair Shops. Their functioning was efficient and satisfactory. For artillery, since artillery materiel was almost entirely French, American personnel were added to French establishments in the advanced zone, and with the aid of their liaison the supply system insisted on by the French was rendered workable. As for ammunition, the operation and administration of the

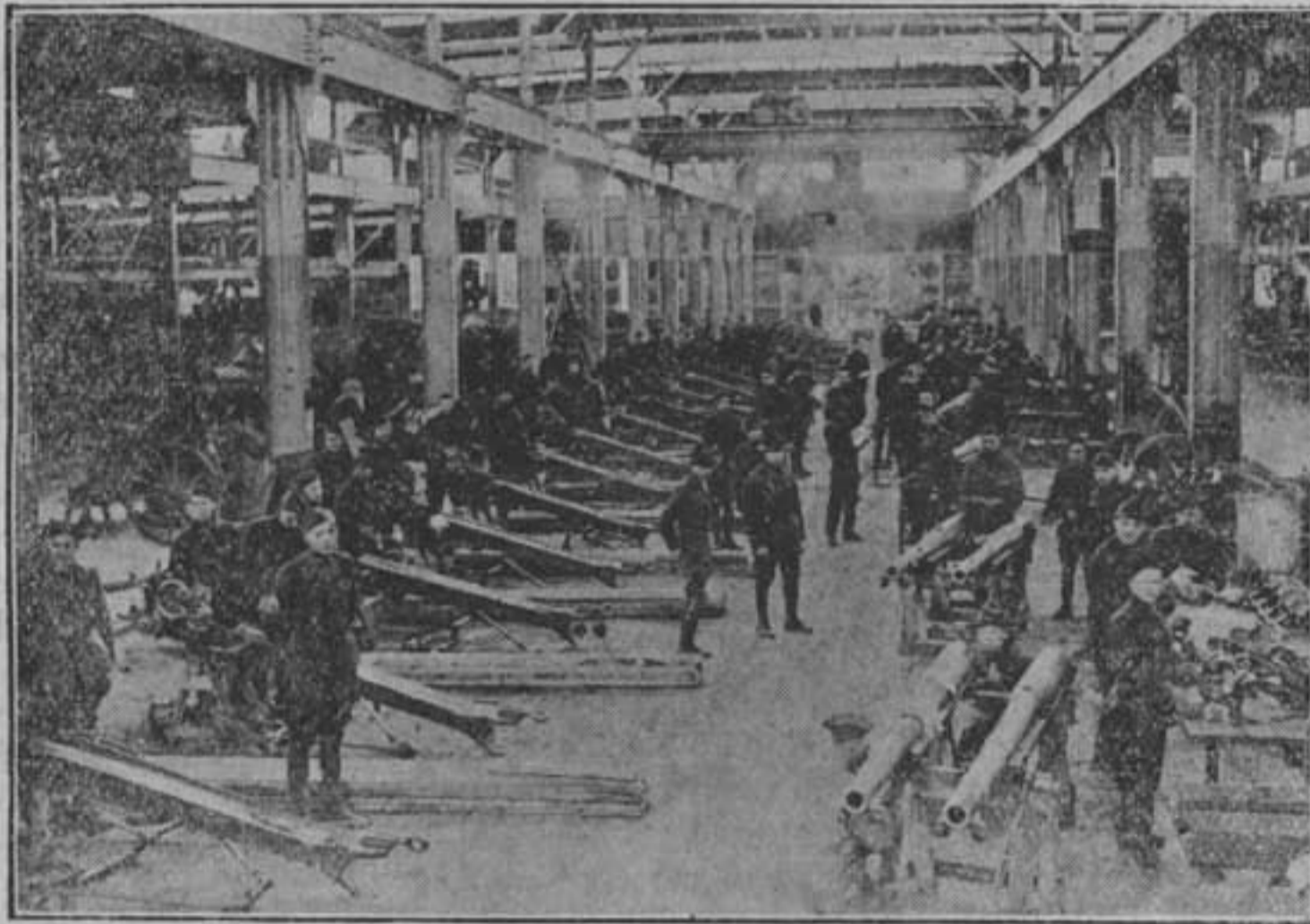
addition, the machine gun and small arms centers at Void, Vaubecourt and Parois repaired the guns in which they dealt; and American personnel, especially the personnel of four heavy artillery mobile ordnance repair shops, in conjunction with French Parcs de Reparation d'Artillerie, did such work on artillery as could be done by the light shops.

The First Army, whose activities were much greater than those of the Second, had for its Chief Ordnance Officer from its organization on August 10, 1918, to Oct. 26, 1918, Col. Edward P. O'Hern, Ord. Dept. Under him various officers designed for assignment to the Second Army received training. Col. O'Hern was succeeded by Col. Lawson M. Fuller, Ord. Dept., who remained in that position until after the signing of the armistice. The Chief Ordnance Officer of the Second Army was at all times Col. James K. Crain, C. A. C.

Some of the Things Accomplished

At the cessation of hostilities, the Ordnance Department, A. E. F., had provided among other things in France over 4,000 cannon, and 10,000,000 rounds of artillery ammunition through our depots; 93,326 machine guns,

75,000 automatic rifles, and 600,000 service rifles besides those brought over by the troops who came fully equipped; 1,182,000,000 rifle cartridges, over 300,000,000 8 mm. cartridges, and 176,000,000 pistol cartridges. Including ammunition received directly from the French in the Army Area, 6,128,635 rounds of 75 mm. had been actually expended and 1,705,000 rounds of heavier caliber (chiefly 155 mm. G. P. F. and 155 mm., 8 in. and 9.2 in. howitzer,) as well as 809,929 trench mortar bombs, and 695,670,451 machine-gun and small arms cartridges. Nearly 8,400 special motor vehicles (tractors, trucks, reconnaissance cars, etc.) had been furnished for military use. The shops and depots of the Department were adequate for any demands that could be foreseen or conjectured. Given the men, it could meet any conditions that could arise.



OVERHAULING AMERICAN ARTILLERY, MEHUN, FRANCE

great network of ammunition stockpiles, depots and dumps, in which at one time, in the First Army alone, over 8,000 soldiers were working day and night, often under artillery, machine gun, and aircraft bombardment, was entirely the responsibility of the Ordnance Department. On this supply service depended the activity of the American artillery; and no better commentary on its work is needed than the success achieved by that artillery, which, in the densest concentrations of the entire war, delivered a fire of the utmost intensity with a rapidity and continuity that had been believed beyond the bounds of possibility, — to which the constant and never-failing stream of ammunition contributed the essential element.

Repair facilities were provided at the front mainly by the Mobile Ordnance Repair Shops, already mentioned. In

GLEANINGS FROM THE PRESS

The city of Berlin is paying out 1,000,000 marks a day for the support of the unemployed of the municipality.

The largest battleship in the world, the super-dreadnought Tennessee, will be launched at the Brooklyn Navy Yard next week.

The War Department has issued a call for 50,000 volunteers for European service to take the place of men who have special reason to return home. They will be concentrated at Camp Meade, Md., and sent overseas in units of 1,000.

GAS HOUNDS VICTORS

The Ordnance Motor Transportation Division's baseball nine defeated the Camp Hospital team Saturday, P. M.; score 14 to 8. Since sending the "mark 'em duty" men to "quarters" the M. T. D. outfit admit their desire and ability to send any other team in camp over the same route. Games may be secured through Cpl. Sinnott, manager, or Lt. Hubert, coach.

MORE ARMISTICE MATERIAL HERE

The last shipment of armistice material received at the Ordnance Repair Shops contains several specimens of war material of particular interest. One of these is a 155 mm howitzer made by Krupp in 1894 which is mounted without any recoil compensating device. Another is a large electric searchlight mounted on a collapsible tube tower. The light can be deflected in any direction through mechanism contained within the collapsible tube. It was made by C. D. Magirus at Ulm.

AGRICULTURAL CLUB

Due to the success of the class in Farm Management at the Post School and to the inspiration of Doctors Curtis and Mc Call who are in charge at the American University, Beaune, France, where more than two thousand men are studying agriculture, it has become necessary to organize an agricultural club at this post. Club members will visit local French farms and possibly other more important ones. Expert agricultural men will lecture at the Club from time to time. Meetings will be held in the Post School Building at 7.00 P. M. every Thursday evening. All men interested in agriculture are invited to come.

SMALL ARMS MUSEUM

By Cpl. L. H. FLOURNOY

Captured enemy small arms, swords, sabres, small field pieces and similar materiel which had been captured or confiscated by the Germans and recaptured by the Americans or handed over to them under the armistice terms, forms a large part of the Ordnance Engineering Collection in the salvage division. As a whole, it forms a collection of inestimable value for research work and exhibition purposes.

One of the most interesting parts of this exhibit is the collection of swords and sabres, numbering over 100 different kinds. Included in this are blades that were made for German officers in the heyday of German militarism—hand made swords, elaborately scrolled, and fashioned only by weeks of work on the part of skilled artisans. Beside a sword so made, may be found another that was fashioned with all haste, when Germany was doing everything in a hurry to stem the tide that had begun to set in against them. It is the same way with the pistols, the rifles and the machine guns and machine gun parts—many of them as carefully constructed as others are hastily made. Rapiers, fencing swords and fancy blades, dating probably from the time of the Bourbons, were among the weapons the Germans took from the French towns they entered. Many of these swords are inscribed with the mottoes of fraternal orders; others have hilts made from a deer's foot or from ivory.

A new Chinese rifle evidently made in Germany, but inscribed with the vertical Chinese lettering, also is on exhibit in the salvage division, along with more than 25 different models of rifles from warring nations. Two German one-pound machine guns are among articles soon to be sent to the States. These guns are constructed on the same principle as the ordinary machine gun. The heavy one-pound shells were fed into the chamber by means of the usual machine gun belt, made on an enlarged scale. Another gun of interest is the one-man anti-tank Mauser rifle which has a heavy stock and a very long barrel made for a high power cartridge of about .50 caliber.

The collection is known as the Ordnance Engineering Collection. It will be used for the compilation of data regarding enemy war material, after which it is probable that the material will be placed in government or state museums.

THE MONASTERY OF SAINT-AUBIN

Written for Mehun News by the Cure of Marmagne.

Translated by Sgt. A. F. Rockwell.

Saint-Aubin does not seem to have been strictly a monastery. It was rather a country home of monks.

The oldest document concerning it dates from 1129 (Louis le Gros, King of France). The archbishop of Bourges, Vulgrin (1119-1133) had a chart made according to which the monks of Notre-Dame de Sales (Bourges) transferred to the monastery of Lorry (near le Chappelle d'Angillon, Cher) their rights on Saint Aubin, for an annual remittance of half a mind of wheat and half a mind of rye (the mind was equal to 8.8 bu.)

In 1317 a new transaction is made to confirm the first. Pierre, Lord of the monastery of Lorroy, order of Cîteaux, engages himself to pay on Saint Michael's day of each year 18 "setiers" of wheat at the door of the church or Notre Dame de Sales (18 setiers equals one half mind).

The oldest building, 12th century, is the old barn on the left. It has been restored several times. On the right the monumental barn dates from the 16th or 17th century. Length outside 45.6 meters, width 22.5 meters. It is covered by an immense roof supported by a construction on lateral logs heavily re-enforced. Everything is made on vast proportions. The door has an arch 4 meters 70 wide; another arched bay on the right has walls that are one meter thick. Some claim that this barn was used as a chapel. A cross with an ornamental extremity crowned the front, and there is a foundation that seems to have been used as an altar. Above the front door is a niche in which was a stone statue of Saint Aubin. In a storm in 1889, it was knocked down and broken in its fall.

On the north side of the barn a piece of land is still called the cemetery. Many tomb-stone emplacements were visible; a few fragments are found. In a chimney an interesting plate is found. It has a shield of blue with five silver crests. These arms are part of a coat-of-arms of royal order. It is believed they are those of the Lords of Saint Nectaire (Auvergne). The property of Saint Aubin was sold as national property in 1791 to Sire Theremin du Chezal, for the sum of 69,000 pounds. It produced then 700 bu. of wheat, 200 bu. of rye and 200 bu. of oats.

EDITOR'S NOTE: St. Aubin is on the Marmagne road, only a mile from camp. A picture of the farm, drawn by our staff artist, is given on page ten.

CAMP BRIEFS

According to telegraphic instructions from Headquarters, S. O. S., there will be no more leaves until further notice to visit Naples, Italy, including Pompeii and Vesuvius.

Lt. Lyman Gage and thirty-five enlisted men will arrive from Toul within the next few days. They have been attached to the Second Army which is being disbanded.

The 7th Co. attended the medical lecture Wednesday night at the "Y." The lecture was preceded by entertainment rendered by George Queen, a vocalist, with S. Roper at the piano.

Gladly accepting the challenge of the Gievres officers' baseball team, the officers' team of this place will journey to Gievres next Sunday for a game of ball at 2 p. m. After the game, the Gievres team will entertain at a five o'clock tea.

MEHUN TRIMS MONTIER-CHAUME

Montier-Chaume was defeated by Mehun in Sunday afternoon's ball game, score 11 to 1. Sapper, Mehun's husky catcher, played his usual snappy game. Lathan pitched and was given good support, and Bates at shortstop made several star plays. Goll caught and Kinney pitched on the Montier-Chaume team.

Total Carloads Shipped to April 24th, 3,154.
If We All Work We Can Finish Very Soon.
If Some of Us Loaf We Will Finish Next Summer.
If All of Us Loaf We Will Never Finish.

UNITS EVACUATE TO ST. NAZAIRE

Evacuation Companies 38 to 46 inclusive, formed in front of the Officers' Quarters Wednesday evening for inspection by Col. Wesson, after which they entrained for St. Nazaire. The nine companies are made up of 797 enlisted Ordnance men and 22 Ordnance officers, with a medical detachment of 13 men and 9 officers. The outgoing troops were headed by the Post Band on their march to the train.

Military Department Has Big Job

(continued from page 1.)

complete card record, including his industrial qualifications. He is then assigned to the Fourth Company, known as the Casual Company. When the man is finally assigned to a Shop Division he is transferred to a company made up of workmen of that shop. The 15 companies in the camp form a Detachment, and the Detachment Commander is responsible for the workings of the Det. Companies, such as proper messing and housing. When casual companies are formed for evacuation to the United States they are placed in separate barracks under the Commander of the Evacuation Camp.

The Supply Officer takes care of the supply of clothing, shoes, mess kits, bedding and all the food stuffs necessary for the messing of the men of the camp. Every ten day period this office draws from the Post Quartermaster approximately 40,000 rations, having a total value of \$23,200.

One of the biggest problems confronting the Military Department is the entertaining of the men during their off hours. To the Entertainment Officer and the Educational Officer falls the job of keeping busy the mind of the soldier during these few months that we have to stay here to complete the work. This camp is fortunate enough to have a Y. M. C. A., K. of C. building, a sergeants and an officers' recreation room, two tennis courts and a good athletic field.

The 30 piece camp band, amateur theatricals, orchestra, and the various athletic teams, are all in line with the idea of keeping up the spirit and entertainment of the men. A fine Post school has been organized for those men who want to learn something that will aid them in civil life.

The problem of caring for the personnel is a big one, and is one not met with in the operation of a similar plant in civil life. About one man in every three in an army shop such as we have here must be used in the care and support of the other two.

SPORT BREVITIES

All the companies in camp now have their full allotment of athletic equipment, which may be obtained at the Company orderly rooms.

Verneuil will play the Mehun soccer team Sunday at 1 p. m., to decide which team will represent this section in the championship finals to be played at a later date.

Romorantin's baseball nine will play the Mehun team Sunday at 3 p. m. As Romorantin has been going strong a good game is expected.

A Post officers' tennis tournament will begin next Monday. Two courts for enlisted men of the camp are being prepared back of the "Y."

The "Dug-Out Players" from the School Detachment lost to the 5th Co. baseball nine Sunday forenoon; score 12 to 8. Star players were Joe Smith, 17-year-old boy wonder, who caught for the "Doughboys" and "Alabam" Vaderman, pitcher for the 5th Co.

MASONS BANQUET AT BOURGES

Masons of the post to the number of 160 held the organization's first banquet at Bourges Monday evening. Speakers delivering addresses were Lt. Schaller, president of the local club, and Lt. Perkins, chairman of Entertainment committee. Other speakers were Major Sabin, Capt. DeCamp, Lt. Storms and Dr. Chatten of the local Y. M. C. A. All masons are invited to attend a business meeting to be held in the "Y" next Wednesday evening.

"TWENTY-TWENTIES"

Next Monday and Tuesday nights the "Twenty-Twenties" from Montier-Chaume in charge of Sgt. J. A. Pease will put on a vaudeville show at the "Y." They are followed on May 2nd and 3rd by "The Strollers" from Romorantin who are under the charge of Lt. T. Dunshet.

