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LAURENCE SLATER
For This Issue

THE HERO AND HIS MARK

Nearly every rookie at first finds some difficulty in keeping straight on all the insignia of rank in the army, but now he has new troubles when he passes a bunch of recently-arrived soldiers from overseas and sees the insignia of their service abroad and their standing on the casualty lists. A majority of current, well-defined cases of strained eyes are due to the nervous study bestowed by conscientious observers upon the insignia worn on the sleeves and shoulders of the men just back from France.

It is easy enough for almost any man in the service to spot a lieutenant, a captain, a major, a colonel, or a general in the American army. The bars, maple leaves and stars soon become familiar so that 99 of every 100 men in khaki can identify an officer's rank without stopping to think. It is not quite so easy to estimate the standing of commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the French, British Italian and Belgian armies one meets in the streets of almost all big cities or at the various training camps. That uncertainty is pardonable, however. A great many veteran officers of the United States army admit quite frankly that they are frequently puzzled by the changes of insignia adopted by some of our smaller allies.

Every wearer of an American uniform should know the exact meaning of the blue and gold chevrons worn on their sleeves by men who have come back from the scenes of actual fighting in France. The war department might not be badly shocked if an American soldier admitted his inability to distinguish between the uniforms worn by a Greek general and a Serbian sergeant. But it would be a real blow to the powers-that-be if an otherwise respectable and well-behaved khaki wearer unblushingly acknowledged that he couldn't tell a service stripe from a wound chevron.

It is true that wound and service chevrons are exactly alike, but the fact, according to the experts, is no excuse for confusion. They coldly point out that the honor mark displayed by a man who has shed his blood for his country ALWAYS is worn on his right arm and the service chevron invariably on his left. Nevertheless, this truth is likely to slip the memory of anyone who has not specialized on military insignia. It may be fixed in the mind, however, by remembering that a man's right arm is considered more valuable than his left. Consequently the appropriateness of putting the wound chevrons on the right sleeve is obvious.

Any officer, field clerk or enlisted man of the United States army who has served six months in a theatre of operations during the present war is entitled to wear a gold service chevron on the lower half of the left sleeve of his uniform coat, and an additional gold chevron for each six months of similar service thereafter. If he serves less than six months he is permitted to wear a sky-blue cloth chevron of the same pattern. In the event that a man earns the right to wear the blue chevron and subsequently returns to the "theatre of operations," he is permitted to substitute a gold chevron for the blue whenever he completes a total of six months' service.

There is, of course, just one chevron for the man who has received a wound in action with the enemy, or as a result of an act of the enemy. This gold chevron is exactly like the service chevron, except that it is worn on the lower half of the right sleeve of all uniform coats, except fatigue coats, overcoats or waists. The lucky wearer of the gold chevron for a wound is allowed to add a chevron for every wound subsequently received. Not more than one chevron may be worn for two or more wounds received at the same time.

If these few facts are kept in mind by the men in the service they will cease puzzling over the distinguishing marks of the man from overseas. The stripes on the left arm will tell you how long he has served at the front, and the gold chevrons on his right arm will permit you to read in passing his record of honors received as a result of active service in the face of the enemy.—Trench and Camp.

MORE!

One day comes Secretary Baker with a detailed statement that the war department must have seven billion dollars more than it figured on a few months ago—raising the year's war bill above thirty billions. There are the objects and the items, calculated to a dollar.

Next comes Mr. Hoover with a statement that we must ship seventeen million tons of food across the Atlantic—all worked out to the last ton on the basis of carefully examined facts. Three and a half million American soldiers in France must be fed; the needs of the allied armies and civilian populations are just so much.

That is the law of this war. Its one persistent word is More!

You know what you have done to meet the war in saving food, fuel and money. It is not enough. Look about—on any city street, into any hotel, in a country town, on a farm. Compare what you see with what you have read about conditions where there is a real war pinch. You know well enough that the belt can be tightened many notches.

We have now entered the great year of the war. We can finish it within a twelvemonth; but probably by nothing short of the greatest effort of which we are capable. That German line is still a long way from the Rhine. Say to yourself "More!" with every motion you make—until the Kaiser says "Enough!"—The Post.

NECESSARIES

If the question had come up during the Civil war anyone would have said that a device by which a man could talk to his neighbors over a wire was certainly unessential; but we consider telephones essential nowadays.

With the exception of wheat, there has hardly been an article of food on which Europe and America have leaned more heavily during the war than on potatoes, which were unknown to white men until Spaniards discovered them in South America in the sixteenth century.

A few years before Europe saw the first potato it saw the first portable timepiece, or watch, which we should hardly know how to get along without. Yet, if you consider it, to only one person out of a thousand is a watch really essential. The other nine-hundred and ninety-nine could get along without portable timepieces if they only thought so.

Adam Smith reports: "The first person in England who wore stockings is said to have been Queen Elizabeth, who received them as a present from the Spanish ambassador." We could go back to winding our legs in cloth and get through the day's work.

Taine suggests that civilization began in England when the population found out how to warm a habitation without suffocating in smoke.

At every step backward along the human path something that we now, as a matter of course, take to be essential to living disappears. At every step forward some new convenience gets woven into our habits; so that we presently, as a matter of course, take it for an essential; and once we

have so taken it, it becomes just as essential as anything else.

Fifty years hence the essentialness of automobiles will no more be questioned than the essentialness of watches or stoves.—The Post.

PROGRESS MADE BY OUR ALLIES IN LAST THREE MONTHS OF OPERATIONS

The remarkable progress made by the allied troops in the world war since July 15, 1918, when the big fighting started in the Marne salient, and up to and including October 15, as shown by a compilation of the official reports for the three months, gives these remarkable totals:

Territory Reclaimed—Approximately 3,000 square miles, counting from the point of greatest German penetration on July 15.

Towns Freed—Many hundreds, including among the most important, Middelkerke, Ostende, Ghisteltes, Zeebrugge, Bruges, Roulers, Lophen, Thielt, Courtrai, Menin, Comines, Tournai, Roubaix, Lille, La Basse, Douai, Noyon, Cambria, Le Catelet, St. Quentin, La Fere, Laon, Berry-au-Bac, Bourgogne, Craonne, Soissons, Rheims, Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel. Prisoners Taken—380,000.

Guns Captured—(Cannon), 3,500. Machine Guns Captured—40,000. French Mortars Captured—2,000 (evidently an underestimate).

Airplanes Destroyed—200 (approximate and probably underestimated). Captive Balloons Destroyed—Eighty. Long Range Bombardment Stopped.

Forest of St. Gobian taken where Germans had installed big gun that shelled Paris.

Notable Advantages Gained—St. Mihiel salient wiped out, German U-boat bases on Belgian coast taken, all commanding terrain of the famous Le Fere-Laon line captured, German lines of railway communication tapped, Forest of Argonne cleared, allied communicating lines freed from German interruption, German offensive stopped and turned into a rout.

In Other Fields—British advance notably in Palestine, pushing forward the line originally stretching from the sea to the River Jordan; British checkmate Turks in Caucasus and block route to India, allied forces in Macedonia break Bulgarian front, forcing the surrender of Bulgaria, and creating a new menace from Rumania; Italians take Durazzo in Albania and push forward, allies defeat Austrian fleet in Adriatic, allies push forward into Russia from the north, and more than 600 miles into Siberia from Vladivostok.

The canteen in Nebraska hall was rushed the other evening when the entire command made a call for gloves, mitts, or "anything to keep your hands warm." The cool morning drill of the past few days accounts for this increase of business.

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