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AMERICAN MARINES IN FRANCE

First American Troops Take Important Part in Fighting Near Château-Thierry, June 1 to 10

The following letter, somewhat condensed, describes the work of the marines in France, the first of the American troops to take an important part in the fighting, near Château-Thierry:

Roads Filled with Refugees

"We left our rest area at 4 a. m., May 31, 1918, in camions [motor trucks] 20 to 30 in a camion, taking a route that skirted within nine miles of Paris. Here we found beautiful little towns with charming villas, blooming gardens, and French who had that unconquerable gaiety of the Parisian, and they lined the roads and threw flowers into the trucks or handed them to the men, and waved American flags at us. As we neared Meaux [25 miles east of Paris] we saw our first fugitives, on a road that was a living stream of troops in camions, guns, and trains hurrying to the front. And the refugees went straight to the heart of us. When you saw old farm wagons lumbering along with the chickens and geese swung beneath in coops, laden down with what they could salvage, cattle driven by boys of nine or ten years, little tots trotting along at their mothers' skirts, tired out, but never a tear or whimper, saw other groups camping out on the road for the night—there was the other side, the side that I think fired the men to do what they did later. I saw one wagon coming along towering to the top with boxes and mattresses, and on the top mattress was a white-haired old lady who

would have graced any home, dressed in her best, and with a dignity that blotted out the crude load and made you think of nothing but the silver-haired old lady, who was the spirit of a brave people that met disaster with dignity.

"Up from Meaux the road went straight to the front, with glimpses of the Marne. And it was a living road of war, troops on foot and in the lumbering camions. French dragoons trotting by, with their lances at rest and the officers as trim as though they had just stepped out of barracks; trains, ambulances, guns from the 75's to the 210's, staff cars whizzing by, and a trail of dust that coated the men in the

HOOVER COMMENDS TEACHERS

5

They Are the Appointed Leaders of the Nation's Great Reserve

Food production and food conservation have been stimulated greatly through the activities of the schools. In recognition of this service, Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator, sends this personal message to the teachers of America:

TO THE TEACHERS OF AMERICA:

For more than a year the Food Administration has been increasingly indebted to the schools of America. Teachers, pupils, and administrative officers have been most cordial in their support of all that has been undertaken to provide food for those who have a right to expect it of us. I welcome this means of giving credit to those who so deserve it, and of expressing my personal gratitude to them.

No one will see more clearly than you the difficulties that surround the food problem, and none will appreciate more fully the necessity of exact information, most widely disseminated, as a basis for effective popular support. And this popular support is absolutely indispensable.

This is the people's war. They must participate in

it in every way that can be devised. Their willingness to do this has been abundantly proven. Hence they also have a right to the truth in order that they may do what they can and do it because they understand.

There may be those who have doubts as to what their duty in this crisis is, but the teachers cannot be of them. They are the appointed leaders of the Nation's great reserve; if this force fails, the hope

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WILSON

To School Teachers of the United States:

It is quite unnecessary, I am sure, for me to urge a continuance of the service you and your pupils have rendered to the Nation and to the great cause for which America is at war. Whatever the Nation's call has been, the response of the schools has been immediate and enthusiastic. The Nation and the Government agencies know and appreciate your loyalty and devotion and are grateful for your unflinching support in every war service.

The schools and colleges of America are justified by their works when the youth of our land and the homes from which they come are united in unselfish devotion and unstinted sacrifice for the cause and the country we hold dear. The spirit of American democracy is a heritage cherished and transmitted by public education. All that America has meant to us and to the world in the past it must mean with greater and more disinterested devotion in the future. The civic sense that has made each home and child part of a community, part of a state, part of a Nation, is to-day deepened by this war and its issues. It affects the fate of the many lands and peoples whose blood is in our veins, and whose happier future will be part of the triumph of the principles for which we fight.

The doors of the schools have opened to a new generation of children. Your responsibilities, great in the past and greatly met, are still greater to-day. This publication by the Committee on Public Information, established in response to the requests of the schools and the needs of the departments whose programs involve the schools, will have served its purpose if it aids you in performing and interpreting the new duties implicit in its title.

WOODROW WILSON

camions until they looked like mummies.

"It was midnight when our 1st Battalion halted in their trucks at a point four miles back of where we finally went into line [near Château-Thierry], and officers and men bivouacked on the roadside or in the fields. The men were sadly in need of rest, for they had had practically no sleep for two nights. Next afternoon, June 1st, we took up the support line, with French

(Continued on page 2)