

### HOUSE DELAYS FINAL ACTION ON NAVAL BILL

#### Vote on Building Program Measure Not Before Next Week

Washington, Feb. 8.—Final action on the new three-year naval building program was postponed in the House late yesterday, probably until next week, because of an agreement not to hold a night session. The House also deferred consideration of appropriations aggregating \$236,000,000 for completing the unfinished part of the first program, authorized in 1916.

Work on the naval bill will be interrupted today. Representative Kitchin, the Democratic leader, will call the conference report on the new war revenue bill with a view to its adoption before adjournment.

Representative Padgett, of Tennessee, chairman of the naval committee, announced that he would ask that work on the naval bill be resumed as soon as final action is taken on the revenue bill, but he added that he did not expect this would be before Monday.

Disapproval of purchase of wireless stations was recorded yesterday by the House.

### Allegheny College on Carnegie List

New York, Feb. 8.—The Carnegie Foundation announces the addition to its list of associated institutions of Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa. The college, which was founded more than a hundred years ago, is the first to be added to the foundation's associated list under its new plan of contributory annuities.

## Shaffer's Last Flight

(Continued From Yesterday)

The two-day rest did us a world of good, and when we went on the march again the majority of the prisoners were in fair condition. At least, they had had enough to eat, for what with the bean bundles in the barn, everyone had eaten his fill of this succulent but much despised "fruit." We got the usual fare from the Boches—"Julian soup" and our small ration of bread—but I never bothered to go after my share. I never could eat it anyway, besides I had beans. But not so the others. They were letting nothing get past them, and notwithstanding the fact that they ate beans all day long, as fast as they could cook them anyway, they always were in line for their share of "Julian." One day the Boche were too lazy to cook up the awful mess, and therefore dumped a bushel of it out on the ground. The way those prisoners fought and scrambled for that ill-tasting, stomach destroying stuff was pathetic.

But the two days came to an end and we went on the road again. Like all the other marches, it was the same weary toiling along, with little to eat and nothing to look forward to except the end of the war. That was the only bright hope we had, and even that darkened by the time the day was ended, and we were halted at an old tumble-down house to pass the night. Even the Russians kicked at that shelter, for half the roof was off, all the windows were broken and there were no doors. How they were going to guard us I don't know, and just then I did not care, for if I stayed in that house that night, I, for one, was going to escape again. Either that or freeze to death, for a chill that or freeze to death, for a chill that was blowing. Having come

uncatched through many combats, storms of bullets and archie barrage, I wasn't going to give the Boche the pleasure of killing me that way.

However, the Boche commander thought better of it, and hunted up a place in the town nearby. At that, it was an open question whether we should be killed by the Boche, or stuck us in a small barracks about as big as your parlor, shut the door and locked us in, putting several guards around outside to prevent anyone from escaping. I fell in through the wall—it was only board. It was cold in there, was nothing to eat and there were lots of heavy planks scattered about. The obvious thing happened. Everybody got out his supply of beans, started a small fire and began dinner. With no place for the smoke to go except up the ceiling and down again, that small room was soon black with smoke. One man hardly breathe and the suffering it caused one's eyes was terrible, but we were hungry, and did not mind such small trifles as smoke. Too soon we were all snoring, and I was sure we needed them. Oh yes, I had my little fire going also, two Frenchmen and I, and our beans were cooking merrily away as we piled on more wood. I took it upon an hour to cook them, but they were worth waiting for, as the flavor was indeed good. And besides beans, you know, are filling. I know, because I lay down that night fairly filled up.

#### Roaring Airplanes

There must have been a Boche aviation camp near, as planes came roaring overhead quite frequently. These frequent visits of the Boche planes, and the steady and regular flight of the Boche, and they were like to start a race riot in that smoke filled room, by turning out the light every time one came over. (Yes, there was an electric light in the room.) It was a good idea, of course, if the planes were allied, but that these were Boche there could be no doubt, for they pecked out a crack, and all the village lights were going full blast. Besides, the planes flew very low and nobody shot at them. The Russians could not be made to understand this though, all they knew was that there were planes buzzing around overhead, and after four years of peace life that they were flying over their heads, and they were like to start a race riot in that smoke filled room, by turning out the light every time one came over.

thick, tasty broth. A Frenchman just a head of me had not been so lucky. She had given him a cup full also, but a Boche guard seeing it, promptly knocked it out of his hand. While he was thus occupied I got line, and by the time he looked my way I had finished drinking it, and the pretty maiden, with the pitcher behind her back, was looking interestingly and demurely at the prisoners as they passed. Crossing a large river we marched through some more of the towns and finally into a large factory, used, no doubt, for making clothing of some sort, for the machinery was still all there. And that was where we were supposed to sleep. Everybody was not through, there was nothing to eat and no fire.

#### Helping Themselves

The floor was cement also, and being wet as we already were you can guess sleeping that way was nothing to look forward to. But the prisoners did not bemoan their fate long, for knowing well the character of the Boche, and that food and heat would not be forthcoming, they promptly made arrangements to get themselves dry. Soon fires were going all over the place and although it was an enormous room was soon as black with smoke as the barracks we had been in the night before. That was too much for me, for what with the poor nourishment, being wet through and lastly, this smoke, I was one sick boy, and began humming to the commander to tell him so and demand to be sent to a hospital. But he was nowhere to be found, and I never did find him until morning. Meanwhile, I had to make the best of things. Luckily, I ran into a French adjutant whom I had met in prison, and he was making arrangements with the civilian owner of the factory to put twelve men in a small room. The room had a stove, which was what had arrested my attention, so with a little line of talk as to my condition I was placed among the twelve. The civilian giving us some coal we soon had a roaring fire going with everybody sitting around holding up coats and socks to dry. Soon we were all pretty thoroughly dried out, and now that we were warm, and began humming when we were to eat, for everybody was hungry, as per usual. Nothing was forthcoming though until late that evening, and that was only some acorn coffee and a little later the old reliable soup "Julian." I could not eat that, so drank my coffee and tried to sleep—just as close to the stove as possible. This had been the first real heat giving fire I had been near for a month, and believe me, I wasn't wasting the opportunity to thaw out.

Several more men escaped that night, but although I wanted to I was too sick, and the steady down-pour of rain still continuing was an added incentive to keeping me indoors. I was well aware that my reserve force was mighty low and would stand in no way to drawing upon. And what worried me more was that it was getting lower all the time and I unable to prevent it.

#### Ask Poles to Leave Province of Posen

Berlin, Feb. 8.—During their parleys with the Polish delegates, the Prussian delegates asked for the evacuation of the province of Posen by the Poles and also the restoration to their duties of authorities in East Prussia recognized by Prussia. The Poles declined to acquiesce and requested an adjournment of the conference for two weeks and a suspension of hostilities. The Prussians refused this.

#### One Ear Always Open

But he never got too interested in the conversation to forget the danger sailing around overhead. One ear was always open for that sputtering roar so peculiar to Boche motors. The minute he heard it there was a wild dive for the button to turn off the light. Several Frenchmen would start in that direction about the same time. If the Russian got there first he turned it out, but the Frenchmen coming up several seconds later promptly turned it on again. Honestly, we had then the same both. You needn't look so shocked, mother, at such a wish, for if you had suffered what I had you would feel the same way about it.

Despite the smoke and the scared Russians though, I spent a fairly comfortable night. At least, it was a solid sleep, for I had several inch planks for my downy couch. Next morning we cooked up a potato and turnip stew, each of us three furnishing one of these vegetables. It wasn't a big feed, but it sure had a good taste. (Ha! Ha!) I can see Aunt Anne laughing at that last comment, for surely she had not forgotten how I used to turn up my nose at "old-fashioned New England dinner."

#### Marching in the Rain

During that day's march it rained all the time and it rained hard. To make it worse a heavy wind storm accompanied it, and as I only had a thin uniform on covered only by my one blanket in lieu of an overcoat, it was soon wet through. We marched 25 miles that day and we were compelled to march that distance without a rest. You cannot imagine how hard that was unless you have tried the same "beans" breakfast, lunch and dinner, and if you have never tried the experience you have not missed anything. The end of our journey for that day was "Dinant, Belgium," and knowing the sooner we arrived there the sooner we would get out of the rain, we marched fast—fast for half-starved, weary prisoners anyway. And what do you think the Boche said about it? Said they, "After this we hope it will rain every day, because the prisoners march faster." You see that cruel character showing up again, eh? Well, we finally arrived at Dinant, a most picturesque city nestling at the foot of steep mountains and lofty cliffs. Its inhabitants were as brave as they were kind, for despite the orders that nothing was to be given to us prisoners as we passed through the streets, many women braved the anger of the guards and passed us cats anyway. I was lucky. I got an apple, and a little further along the street a pretty mademoiselle gave me a cup of

## LONDON HOTEL FOR U. S. A. BOYS

#### Y. M. C. A. Takes Over Six Buildings for Army and Navy Use

London, Feb. 8.—Half a dozen London hotels, including the Palace, Cosmo and Grafton, have been taken over by the American Y. M. C. A. within the last few weeks and are now in full operation. This addition to the war plant of the "Y" is required by the even more comprehensive period of occupation program which has been set up in the United Kingdom by the Y. M. C. A. The association's educational program is expected to bring at least 1000 picked Americans for training in the British universities. Already hundreds of soldiers are coming across the channel to spend their long leaves. Much of the navy work of the "Y" must be kept up until the American army of occupation has been sent back home.

When the armistice was signed there were approximately 700 American "Y" workers in the United Kingdom. About 125,000 men were in the rest camps and training areas at all times and 40,000 men from the fleet of battleships, destroyers, transports, mine-layers and other craft were served by the "Y" at numerous ports in the British Isles. Although only a small part of this total now remain, the need for a more extended "Y" program was described today by Frederick F. Hinitt, field secretary, in the eve of his departure for home.

### Asks Fund to Store Surplus War Supplies

Washington, Feb. 8.—General Goethals, chief of the purchase, storage and traffic division of the War Department, asked the House military affairs committee for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 to be used

in storing the enormous quantities of surplus war supplies in possession of the department. Thousands of tons of supplies are being brought back to this country from France, General Goethals told the committee, and the ports of debarkation are becoming congested because no storage places are available.



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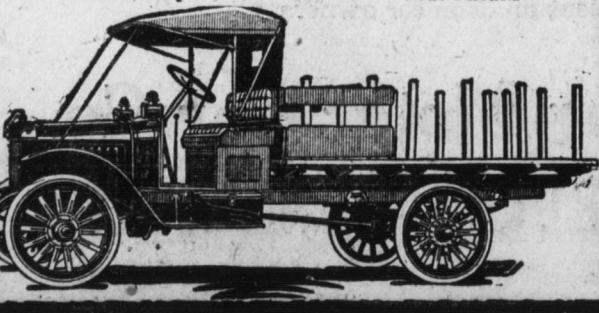
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