BUSTED YANKS IN HOCK IN VIENNA OVER TWO MONTHS

Photo Detail Too Poor to Leave Hunger Swept Austrian Capital

SOUP OF OATS AND BRAN

But Poverty Didn't Keep Them From Starving at John D.'s Hotel and Visiting Ex-Emperor

After being in hock for their hotel bill at one of the best hotels in Vienna for two and a half months, three Yankee soldier photographers returned to Coblenz April 22.

They had no money to pay their hotel bill. The only thing to do was to stay on and on. Meanwhile their bill was mounting at the rate of $5 a man per day. Finally, the middle of April, when Bolsheviks were getting active in Vienna and the Rhineland looked good to the three Yanks, they managed to get enough money to pay their bill and railroad tickets. The hotel bill was about 1,700 kronen, approximately $850. Transportation cost 1,500 kronen more, declare the three.

"Vienna is fine, but we wished we had some corned willie or goldfish," was the statement of one of the men. "We lived for two weeks on sauerkraut, and it was a big day, Sunday or something, when we got carrots."

The little photographic detachment, originally consisting of Lieut. A. J. Sutton, Sgt. Sheridan McAuley, Pvt. Walter R. Suess and Pvt. Frank D. Haston, went to Berlin early in January, being among the first Americans there. They found the Germans hostile and Berlin in turmoil. When one of the men attempted to aim his camera from a housetop, Germans threatened to aim machine guns at him.

Americans a Curiosity

Vienna was next on the photographic expedition, reached February 3. Pictures were taken in the Austrian capital, tranquil compared to Berlin. The Austrians welcomed the American soldiers, the first they had seen. The visitors were a curiosity from the outside world, and the Viennese took every chance to talk to them. Many spoke English.

But the party was far, far from the disbursing quartermaster and, worse yet, out of communication with him. Their funds were getting low. There was only one way out, seemingly. That was to pool their finances, send one man out to establish liaison with the Army at Coblenz, while the three remained behind in hock for the unpaid and unpayable board bill. Lieutenant Sutton came to Coblenz, but he was unable to get the money back to the three.

Meanwhile, the Vienna detail was not bad—elegant rooms at the Hotel Bristol, where John D. Rockefeller and J. Pierpont Morgan have had their billet while seeing Europe; theaters, museums, horse races, entertainments. There was only one thing lacking—chow. Slum, hardtack, prunes, tomatoes—anything would have tasted like pie to the Yankees.

No Real Food for Money

"A whole suitcaseful of money could not buy a square meal," said the men. "It was worse when we first came there. We had some made of bran, like they feed horses, and soup of oats. On special occasions there were carrots in it. For two weeks we had sauerkraut. Black bread, of course. Later conditions improved a little. After a while the American food commissioners arrived, but they were an advance party, had no food with them, and were in the same fix we were when it came to food. Before we left American foodstuffs had begun to come in, and that was the only thing that kept the people from starvation.

"Once or twice we had dog meat. It's good. You don't see many dogs running around in Vienna. The funny part of it is that those you see often have war medals—Austrian, German and others—pinned on them. The people got so disgusted with the war and all the medals that they were pinning them on the dogs.

"We went to the national opera, known the world over, and saw Parsifal. We sat in the Kaiser's box, reserved for the American commission. The costumes were of paper and their rustle could be heard plainly. To save light and heat during the winter, everything closed up at 8 o'clock, later at 9 o'clock. Theater performances, therefore, began in the afternoon and were out by 8 or 9 o'clock. In the entracte about 6 o'clock people would pull out their lunch boxes and begin to eat their black bread.

Hot Water Scarce, Too

"Talk about not having hot water for a bath—in Vienna they had hot water three hours a week—a week, not a day. Regulations were that there could be hot water from 8 to 11 o'clock Saturday forenoon. This held good even at the swell Bristol Hotel."

Among other adventures, Private Suess claims the honor, or at least the novelty, of having visited ex-Emperor Karl at his country place. A detail of British Tommies brought packages of food for the monarch. Suess went with them. They delivered their parcels and were invited to dinner. Deer meat was the principal item on the extremely simple menu, which also included the ever-present black bread.

"February went; March went—but still no line of communication. The Americans had nothing particular to kick about except the mess. But in April Bolshevik rumblings appeared. They were glad when they finally got money to pay their bills, and hurried to Coblenz. They had Austrian and German passes, and had no great trouble in coming back.

BOLSHEVIK BOMB PROVED BUT A DUD

M.P. Detail Carefully Destroys 16-Pound Shot

Weary with his rounds of watching for AWOL's, who were scarce on that particular night, an M.P. in Bordeaux strolled over to a waiting motorcycle by the curb and seated himself for a moment's rest upon the soft cushion of the side-car. Suddenly his foot struck something, and the something rolled. He touched it again with his hobnails, and it rolled some more. So he took a look, and there in the bottom of the side-car he saw a life-size bomb!

The M.P. picked the bomb up very carefully and tiptoed with it down to A.P.M. headquarters. Experts were called and the bomb was pronounced genuine, whereupon the A.P.M. ordered that it beeast into the Gironde river before it exploded and killed everybody in Bordeau. A special detail of M.P.'s was also dispatched to scour the city for any representatives of the "Reds" who might be ranging around waiting to count the damage.

And now the athletic officer of Base Section No. 2 is out one 16-pound shot, which had been brought all the way from Paris by special courier to grace the coming track and field meets of Base Section No. 2. And there is one shot which will never be put, or rather it will remain where it was put—at the bottom of the Gironde.

U. OF BEAUNE IS DUE TO CLOSE ON JUNE 7

Students Will Return in Regimental Formation to the States

The A.E.F. University at Beaune, the keystone of the educational system designed to give American soldiers in France an opportunity to put to good use the weeks and months of waiting for transportation home, will suspend its manifold lectures and close its doors June 7. All students and personnel of the university whose organizations have sailed prior to that date will be organized into a university regiment and returned as such in a body to the United States.

In announcing the closing date, Col. Ira L. Reeves, president of the university, gave three reasons influencing the step—the thinning out of the student body, the breaking up of the S.O.S. and the original purpose of the university "to give to the soldier the greatest possible benefits to be derived in utilizing his time while waiting for transportation home." "The institution," says Colonel Reeves, "was never intended to delay for one moment the return of any soldiers to the United States."

During the month intervening, however, reports from Beaune indicate there will be no letup in the program of the university's work, but on the contrary there will be continued effort to carry it through to success on the home stretch. All departments will function normally until the date for closing, and every effort will be made to make courses more strenuous rather than to slacken them. Opportunities will be offered to remaining divisions and S.O.S. troops to send additional students for special short term courses.

After closing the university, some time will be necessary to close up its affairs and pack up so much of its equipment as is to be returned to the United States.

Passes for Students Everywhere

At last the A.P.M. has been relieved of one of his many worries. No longer will he be obliged to call up Sorbonne or the University of Dijon and request that some one claim a jugful of students who were picked up for wandering about town without passes. Under G.O. 69, G.H.Q., officers and soldiers on detached service to attend universities will carry with them at all times a school pass.

This pass will be issued by the adjutant of the school detachment and countersigned and stamped by the assistant provost marshal of the town in which the university or school is located, or the nearest one thereto. This school pass is required in addition to the identity card.

Officers and soldiers to whom school passes and identity cards have been issued will be allowed freedom of circulation by day or night within a radius of ten kilometers from the place in which the institution they are attending is located.

MAIL COURSES GROWING

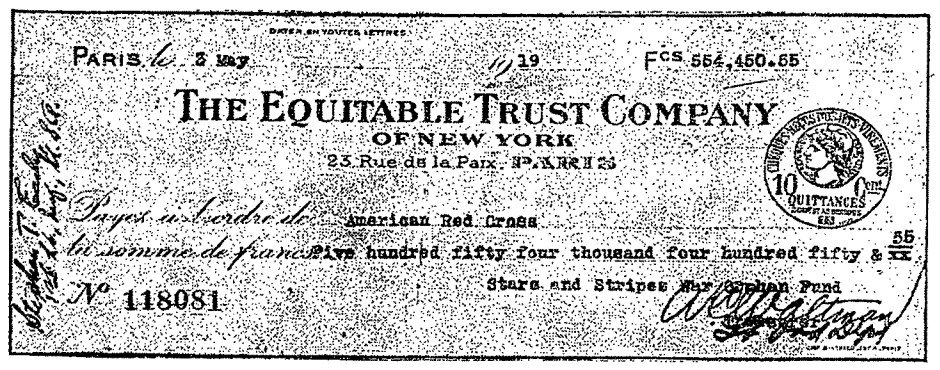
With the growing popularity of the Correspondence School which is being conducted in conjunction with the University at Beaune, the Army Educational Commission has added 17 more courses to the 21 originally announced.

The new courses are: World Geography, Commercial Geography, Geography of Europe, Geography of British Isles, Principles of Dairy Farming, Poultry Management, Animal Husbandry, Productive Farm crops, Productive Orcharding, Business Law, Foreign Trade, Applied Electricity for Practical Men, Practical Mechanics, Strength of Materials, Gas Engine Ignition, Modern European History and Economics.

The courses are open to every man in the A.E.F. To enroll for any Correspondence School work, it is only necessary to address an application to the College of Correspondence, A.E.F. University, Beaune, A.P.O. 909. The applicant should give his name and address, former occupation, and state in detail his previous education. As soon as an application designating the courses desired is filed, textbook supplies and full directions for study are sent.

The courses are particularly for men who are members of mobile units or those who cannot get the studies they want at post or divisional schools, or who were unable to get away to attend school or university.

FROM THE A.E.F. TO THE ORPHANS OF FRANCE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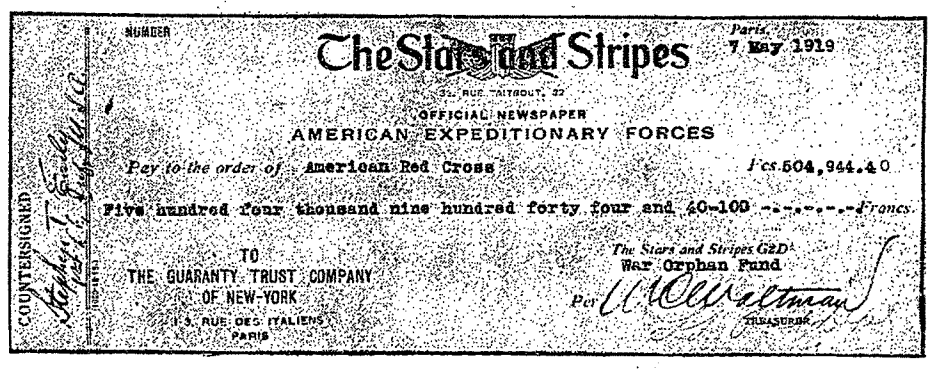
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