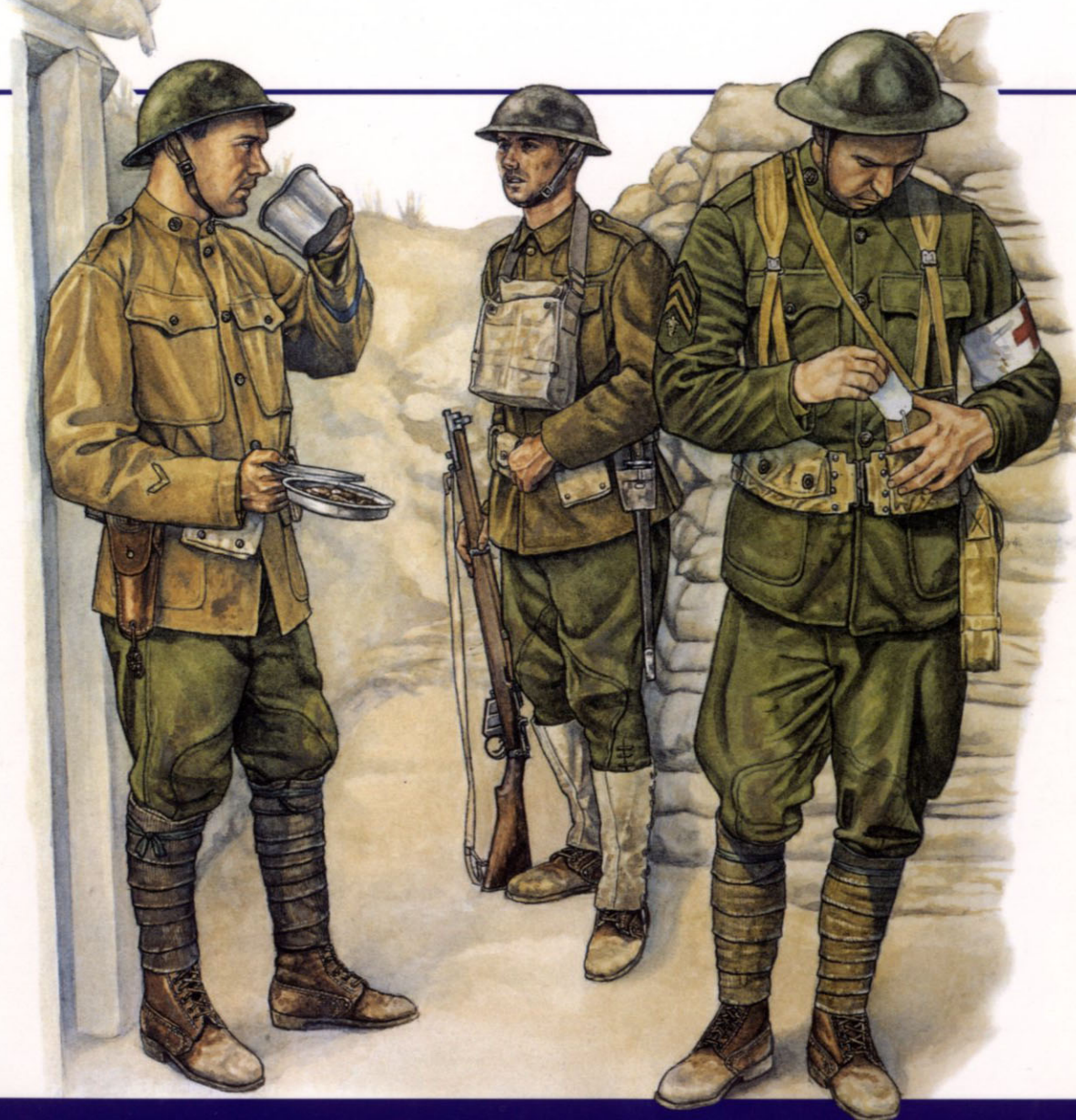


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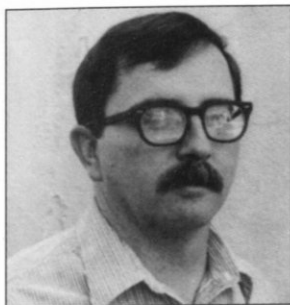
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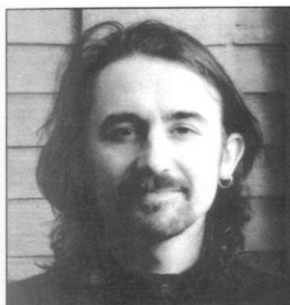


Mark R Henry • Illustrated by Stephen Walsh

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Series editor Martin Windrow

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THE US ARMY OF WORLD WAR I

INTRODUCTION



LtCol Donovan, 165th Infantry (the old 69th NY), in the 42nd (National Guard) Division in September 1918. He wears the ribbons of the American DSC and the French Croix de Guerre, and would be awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry at the head of his regiment in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The helmet cover made from sandbag burlap was unusual in the AEF; such detail variations as the round-bottomed tunic pockets were fairly common. In World War II, "Wild Bill" Donovan would be the founding leader of the OSS, the forerunner of the CIA.

BY THE TIME THE UNITED STATES entered World War I in April 1917, the conflict had been raging in Europe for nearly three years. On the Western Front unbroken trench lines faced one another for hundreds of miles from the Belgian coast of the English Channel to the border of Switzerland. In the fighting on the Somme front alone in July–November 1916 the British and French armies had suffered some 615,000 casualties: this was carnage on a vast, industrialized scale. Germany had taken a calculated gamble in provoking the USA into the war, by unrestricted U-boat warfare against her shipping, and hostile diplomatic maneuvers: with a standing army of just 128,000 and 81,000 Reservists, and lacking almost all the equipment necessary for modern warfare, America was wholly unprepared to play an immediate role in this maelstrom. The declaration of war gave new hope to the Allies, and one US Army division was sent to France immediately as a gesture, but it would be nearly a year before the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) was ready to take the field.

In the meantime Allied fortunes went from bad to worse. In spring 1917 Russia was torn by internal unrest, and that autumn she collapsed altogether; as she did so, the Austrians inflicted a stunning defeat on the Italians at Caporetto, driving them back a hundred miles and inflicting 300,000 casualties. France's spring 1917 offensive was less costly by the appalling standards of the day, but its failure was so spectacular that large parts of the French Army's front were paralyzed by mutinies. To take the strain the British attacked in the Ypres Salient in August, but initial success bogged down in the muddy hell of Passchendaele that autumn, with another 245,000 casualties. Germany was now able to withdraw her armies from the Russian front; and in March 1918 she threw her full weight against the Allies in a bold and imaginative offensive that offered a real chance of breaking through the Western Front and winning the war.

For much of 1917 the AEF commander General Pershing had resisted Allied pleas that he release his slowly preparing divisions piecemeal for combat under Allied generals; now Germany gambled that an American army of questionable professionalism and vigor would join the line too late to decide the issue. The same miscalculation and hubris that had caused the Germans to dismiss the small British professional army of 1914 as "contemptible" was to lead them to disaster once again. Yet in late March 1918, with 65 German divisions driving a massive wedge between the British and French fronts and German shells falling on Paris, General

Ludendorff's Operation "Michael" was a very near run thing.

After driving a broad salient nearly 50 miles into Allied territory the German advance ran out of impetus and supplies, and successive thrusts in April and May were also held, though at a cost of a quarter million British and French casualties. In late May and June, at the southern edge of the salient where the Germans threatened the Marne river and Paris, the US 2nd and 3rd Divisions – fresh out of training – met and turned back the German tide at Château-Thierry, Soissons and Belleau Wood. Throughout the summer the strength of the AEF in the line grew rapidly, quickly making up for the overall Allied casualties in the spring.

The Americans played an increasingly important part in Marshal Foch's Allied counter-offensive launched in mid-July, and in September the US First Army of nearly 20 divisions won a significant victory in the St Mihiel salient. By October, fighting on the Meuse-Argonne front, the AEF had grown to the point that First and Second Armies were formed; here they cost Germany 130,000 casualties and reached the outskirts of Sedan, putting Metz within Allied reach. After six months' terribly costly fighting the German general staff could clearly see that their gamble had failed. Field Marshal von Hindenburg would later write: "The American infantry on the Argonne won the war".

It had seemingly taken the US forever to get their troops into the war; but by the time Germany was forced to sign the Armistice in November 1918, the AEF had 2.1 million men in France and was holding 23 percent of the Allied line, overtaking the British Army's 21 percent. It was felt by many returning American soldiers that they had indeed "won the war." With 50,300 US dead set against other Allied war deaths of 4 million, it is difficult to take this boast seriously. Nevertheless, by Armistice Day about a third of Allied troops on the Western Front were American and their numbers were still growing. Germany's agreement to negotiate an armistice before her armies were forced back onto German soil took the Allies by surprise, and it had been widely believed that the war would continue well into 1919. In that next year the AEF planned to expand to 80 large divisions; had Germany resisted more stubbornly, then – just as a generation later – it would have been the Americans who carried the lion's share.

"Doughboys"

Most of the soldiers of the nations at war had nicknames. The bearded French troops were the *poilus* ('hairy ones'); the British were the Tommies



"They looked larger than ordinary men; their tall straight figures were in vivid contrast to the undersized armies of pale recruits to which we were grown accustomed... Had yet another regiment been conjured out of our depleted Dominions? I wondered, watching them move with such rhythm, such dignity, such serene consciousness of self-respect... Then I heard an excited exclamation from a group of Sisters behind me, 'Look! Look! Here are the Americans!' I pressed forward with the others to watch the United States physically entering the War, so god-like, so magnificent, so splendidly unimpaired in comparison with the tired, nerve-wracked men of the British Army."

(From the memoir of British VAD Nurse Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*)

OPPOSITE A mobilized New York National Guard bugler, in campaign hat and shirtsleeve uniform, comforts a loved one at the train station. His unit is destined to form part of the 27th (NG) Division under MajGen John O’Ryan. Arriving in France in July 1918, “O’Ryan’s Roughnecks” served in the British sector from August until the Armistice – a tactless posting, given the many Irish-Americans in the division.

Men of the 4th Infantry disembark in a French port, probably Brest; the regiment served in the 3rd (Regular) Division, which became famous for its stand on the Marne river during the German 1918 spring offensive. This Regular Army soldier has the full M1910 “long pack” incorporating the bedroll, with his overcoat worn round it horse-shoe fashion and the T-handled shovel attached. He is armed with the M1903 Springfield, and his early M1910/14 web cartridge belt has “puckered” pockets and snap fasteners.



(from Thomas Atkins, the name used on a specimen Army document generations before); the German was a *Landser* or *Frontschwein*. US soldiers had no such nickname upon their arrival in France in 1917, though the French began to call them “Sammies” after Uncle Sam. American troops disliked this, feeling that it had the sort of patronizing ring of the names given to blacks in the United States of nearly a century ago. The British, by long habit, called all Americans “Yanks” – innocent of the chagrin this caused to soldiers from the South. The nickname they themselves settled for was “Doughboy”, for which *nom de guerre* there are many alleged origins. It is generally believed that it was a reference to the dust-covered infantrymen of Pershing’s 1916 Mexican Punitive Expedition, but the term actually dates back to the Mexican and Civil Wars and is of unknown origin or exact meaning. Before World War I it referred exclusively to the infantry. In the words of Pvt E.R.Poorbaugh, 1st Division:

“Soldiers were first known as doughboys. Later, we became known as dog-faces... It was said we were so called because we wore dog tags, slept in pup tents, growled at everything we ate, and tried to **** every female we saw.”

COMPOSITION OF THE AEF

With the US declaration of war in April 1917, the recruiting offices were jammed with enthusiastic volunteers who were ready to show the Kaiser “what for”. They had to be of sound mind and body, 18 years or older, and “have at least twenty teeth.” The average American soldier stood 5ft 7ins and weighed 145 lbs. Volunteers could enlist for the duration of the war or a fixed four-year “hitch”.

The small Regular Army was almost immediately shaken up by regimental expansions and the stripping out of veteran soldiers as cadres for new units. The “regular” divisions that landed in France were packed with raw recruits; the most “old Army” of them was the 1st Division, and even that arrived in France with units consisting of two-thirds “green” men. A certain Captain George C.Marshall was to say of it: “Most of the men were recruits and many were issued their arms after boarding the train in Texas en route to Hoboken” [for embarkation to France]. Private Bailey, a “regular” of the 2nd Division arriving in France, recalled serving in a company where “...not a single man had ever fired a Springfield rifle, and few had discharged a firearm of any kind... [Each arrived] with a bayonet wrapped in a newspaper, 10 rounds of live ammunition in his belt, ready to beat the German to his knees. To have sent us to the front at that time would have been murder”. Even the small Marine contingent, which had retained much of its old regular flavor and skills, would require extensive training in trench warfare.¹

¹ See the present author’s MAA 327, *The US Marine Corps in World War I 1917–18*

Most Doughboys were quartered in small French towns or farms during the long months of in-country training; barns, churches and granaries were converted wholesale into barracks. Damp, cold, and infested with lice, such quarters beat "pup tents" – but only just. An invariable feature of the courtyard outside was a manure pile; it was suggested by some that the size of the pile indicated the relative wealth of the farmer. To judge by the saddlebags, this barn scene in April 1918 may show men from an artillery unit.



October 1918: Doughboys "reading" a shirt for lice – "cooties" or "seam squirrels"; this was a major pastime in all the combatant armies, and many poems and songs were dedicated to these constant companions of the soldier. Clothing was occasionally steamed in massive pressure cookers, but since the Doughboy's quarters and trenches were always lousy re-infestation only took a matter of hours.

Like the Regular Army, the state National Guard (NG) troops who had been called to the colors were also much unsettled by re-organization and the influx of new recruits. Being locally raised and receiving some training while still in the USA, they were probably as well prepared as the Regular Army soldiers. Many of the state NG Cavalry regiments were converted to machine gun or artillery units based on need and on their familiarity with horses.

By June 1917 draft (conscription) laws had been passed for the compulsory enlistment of able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 21 and 30, to serve for the duration of the war. By September 1918 the age limits had been extended to 18 and 45. Over 2,800,000 men would be drafted into an Army which would eventually consist of 75 percent conscripts. These men were considered part of the National Army (NA) as opposed to the Regular Army (Reg) and National Guard. Some 37 percent of the draftees were unable to read and write, and only 21 percent had any education beyond grammar school. The AEF was reflective of America at large: half were country boys, about 18 percent were foreign born, and 10 percent were African-Americans. A German officer noted the ethnic diversity of the AEF: "Only a few of the troops are of pure American origin: the majority are of German, Dutch and Italian parentage. But these semi-Americans... fully feel themselves to be true-born sons of their (adopted) country."

Training

The units initially shipped to France were a mixture of veteran and green personnel. Heavy drafts had been made on all the existing Regular

Army units to provide each of the new battalions with a smattering of seasoned NCOs and officers.

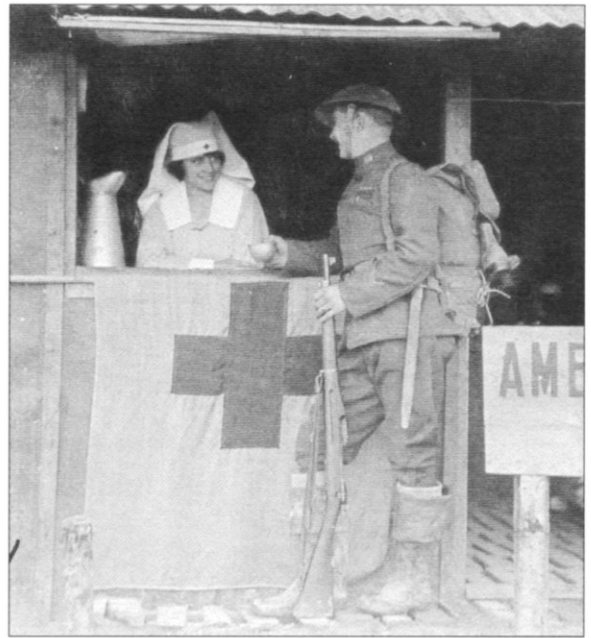
The AEF's 1st Division was rushed over in May 1917 to show the flag and lift sagging Allied spirits, but it would be many months before they would see service in the trenches. Arriving AEF units were garrisoned in villages, barns or barracks while they were put through trench warfare training by experienced European instructors. After three years of virtually static "siege" warfare these veterans naturally emphasized the special conditions of trench fighting: the dominance of the machine gun over No Man's Land, the techniques of the trench raid, the vital part played by hand grenades, the use of the bayonet in hand-to-hand fighting. The men were taught to crawl and hug "mother earth", and if they had to advance, then to move dispersed in short rushes. General Pershing envisioned an eventual breakthrough when marksmanship and open field maneuvering would be paramount, and insured that these were also emphasized: he felt they "fit the temperament of the American fighting man".

In the United States a crash program was set up to locate and create from scratch, within six months, 32 cantonments and camps to form and train follow-on divisions for the AEF. By the last months of the war the AEF was suffering heavy casualties and replacements and new divisions were required. One out of every four divisions arriving in France was cannibalized for replacements, the artillery and engineers being stripped out for use at corp level. Training times were cut brutally short, and Americans were rushed into the fighting: men freshly enlisted in July 1918 were in the trenches by October.

Officers

In 1917 generations of government parsimony and some social disdain meant that there were only a limited number of Regular and National Guard officers to command the dramatically expanding US Army. Fortunately, a sort of officers' training summer camp had been created in 1916 at Plattsburg, NY. This training set the pattern for the creation of the Officer Training Camps (OTC) that the Army set up across the nation, and which were able to produce the vast numbers of college-educated junior officers now required. These "90-day wonders" provided 50 percent of the Army's officer needs; a further 10 percent were promoted from the enlisted ranks. West Point also commissioned cadets who had completed at least one year's training. The Army had no warrant officers during World War I, though the Marines had a handful; the Army did not introduce this rank until 1920.

Regimental and division commanders were assigned by Washington to the divisions that were being formed in the USA; a West Point background was necessary to obtain these positions. General Pershing inherited these officers; many were past their prime when they arrived in France, but he was given little leeway in assigning his own choices for



October 1918: Mary S. Webster serves up a cup for Pvt H. Rouvold, a decorated veteran of the 116th Inf, 42nd (NG) Div, at an American Red Cross Canteen. Rouvold displays medal ribbons and two overseas service stripes, and wears turned-down rubber waders over web leggings. Doughboys swore by the Salvation Army and Knights of Columbus, who handed out coffee, cigarettes, etc. for free; they sometimes swore at Red Cross workers, who were required to charge for them – even from the wounded.



February 1919: the officer's double-breasted overcoat with black rank knots on the forearms is worn here by the leader of the 369th Infantry's famous jazz band, Lt James Reese Europe. Lieutenant Europe served in the trenches and led patrols, but was soon posted to the rear areas to entertain the troops and Allies; his crack band almost single-handedly introduced jazz to a wide-eyed Europe, and was rapidly imitated by two or three other black bands in the AEF. They played both jazz and traditional airs, along with war songs of their own composition.

commands or promotion to general officer. However, he had the authority to relieve or reassign officers for inefficiency or physical disability, and he made use of this power ruthlessly. Those senior AEF officers awaiting new assignments were posted to Blois or Cannes, far from the front, to wait – and wait... Such officers were said to have “gotten the Can” or to have “gone Bloise”.

Ethnic minorities

Blacks had served in the Army in significant numbers during the Civil War. Following the war the 24th and 25th Infantry and 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were formed as permanent regular all-black units. A small number of black officers had also served in the Army, and others were commissioned during World War I; an OTC for African-Americans was established at Des Moines, Iowa, which graduated 1,200 black officers. One regiment of the “colored” 93rd Division – the 370th Infantry – had almost all black officers. A black West Point graduate and Mexican Punitive Expedition veteran, LtCol Charles Young, was available for promotion at the start of the war. In order to avoid having a black senior officer placed over white officers, the Army “medically retired” Col Young in 1917. He famously rode on horseback from his home in

Chillicothe, Ohio, to Washington DC to highlight his fitness for reinstatement, but was still refused.

African-Americans were subject to the draft and it was planned that numerous black combat units be formed; but due to nervousness over the prospect of arming large numbers of blacks, and the Houston mutiny of 1917, these plans were scaled back to forming eight regiments from black National Guard units and draftees. Ultimately, 160,000 of the 200,000 black soldiers deployed to France would serve in support and stevedore units. The four crack black regiments of the Regular Army did provide some cadre and officers to the AEF, but the units served on the Mexican border for the duration.

The 93rd (NG) Division, made up of black guardsmen from seven states with a majority of white officers, was shipped to France in December 1917. This division lacked artillery and support units, and Gen Pershing was stumped as to how exactly to utilize them. The French – who, as a long-time colonial power, had no neuroses about black soldiers – came to his rescue with a request for their use; as one regimental commander said of Pershing, he “...put the black orphan in a basket, set it on the doorstep of the French, pulled the bell and went away”. Equipped, armed and supported by the French, the four regiments of the 93rd were parceled out to needy French divisions. The black Doughboys were relatively happy with the French, who showed little racism and were genuinely glad to see them. The “Black Rattlers” of the

November 1918: two officers involved in the famous story of the "Lost Battalion" – Maj Charles W. Whittlesey (left) and Maj. C. McKinney of 77th (NA) Division. Whittlesey was CO of the 1st Bn, 308th Inf, which became cut off behind enemy lines; McKinney's 3rd Bn, 307th Inf finally fought their way through to relieve them after five days. Only some 200 of Whittlesey's 550 men walked out under their own power. Whittlesey and two others received the Medal of Honor; but in 1921 this modest and sensitive officer would commit suicide by walking off the fantail of a passenger ship. His death is something of a mystery, but may have been related to remorse over his casualties and the belief that his "hero" status was undeserved. (Doughboy Center Website)



93rd served 191 days in the trenches, the longest of any AEF formation. The "Harlem Hellfighters" of the 369th Infantry (the old 15th NYNG) especially distinguished themselves, earning a unit Croix de Guerre citation for gallantry at Maison-en-Champagne; and the 371st were highly praised by Gen Goybet, commander of the French 157th Division.

The 92nd (NA) Division was formed with black draftees and was trained at several different "stateside" bases: local communities would have been upset by large numbers of black soldiers at any single location. With poor leadership and minimal training, the 92nd went into the line in August 1918. The division's service would prove to be undistinguished, but it was almost doomed from the start by low expectations, bad officers and inadequate planning. Two of its regiments had some success against the Germans in the last days of the war, and one battalion was cited for the Croix de Guerre; but two regiments ended the war on road-building detail.

A significant number of American Indians served in the AEF. The 36th (NG) Division was especially noted for the number of Indians in the ranks; Choctaws were employed in the division's 142nd Regiment as code talkers on the field phones. (Interestingly, Iroquois soldiers were also used for this same purpose in Canadian units.)

Women

The Nurse Corps had over 5,000 female nurses serving overseas in July 1918, when it was redesignated as the Army Nurse Corps (ANC). Nurses generally received the same courtesies as officers but were not commissioned; their pay was \$60 per month – slightly more than a male quartermaster sergeant. By the Armistice 10,000 nurses were serving overseas; most were assigned to base hospitals, hospital trains and convalescent wards, though at times they were seen nearer the front at divisional clearing stations.

Women volunteer auxiliaries were also employed to help run the AEF phone services in France. These "hello girls" had to be between 18 and 35 years old and able to speak fluent French; trained on switchboards in the USA, they served in France and later Germany until 1919. Women also served in France in large numbers to support the Red Cross and YMCA nursing and service organizations.

ORGANIZATION

General Pershing mandated that all AEF units and formations in Europe be created with generously large established strengths. Partly this was because he recognized that heavy casualties were inevitable and he wanted big units that would be able to endure severe losses while remaining operational. Perhaps of equal import

was the shortage of experienced officers and staff, which would be eased by having fewer but larger units.

The infantry company consisted of six officers and 250 men, led by a captain; it had an 18-man HQ detachment and four platoons. The platoon had 58 men in an HQ section and four 12-man rifle sections. However, manpower shortages and the influenza epidemic of 1918–19 finally forced Gen Pershing to reduce company establishment to 175 men in September 1918.

The battalion was commanded by a major and had 26 officers and 1,027 men in four companies. An AEF regiment, commanded by a colonel, had 3,832 men in three battalions, a 178-man machine gun company (with at least 16 guns), a supply company and an HQ company. This latter had eight officers and 336 men in five platoons: HQ/band, signal, 3in mortar, engineer, and a platoon of three 37mm guns. General



John J. Pershing (1860–1948) of Missouri was graduated from West Point in the class of 1886, 30th out of 77. He served in the cavalry for the last four years of the Indian Wars. When he was a Tac officer at West Point, 1897–98, the cadets found him a humorless disciplinarian. During the Spanish-American War he distinguished himself at San Juan Hill as a staff officer in the black 10th Cavalry; he later served successfully as what the British would call a political officer in the Philippines, and witnessed the Russo-Japanese War as an observer on the Japanese side. He was well known to President Theodore Roosevelt who, in a unique mark of confidence, authorized Pershing's promotion direct from captain to brigadier general in 1906; this jump over the heads of 862 more senior officers naturally made him many enemies. After another stint in the Philippines he commanded 8th Cavalry Brigade in California from 1913; and in 1916 he led the Punitive Expedition into Mexico against Pancho Villa's forces, which brought him another star.

Although he had several politically savvy (and Republican) generals to choose from in selecting a commander for the AEF, President Wilson decided on the apolitical MajGen Pershing. After a one-hour talk with Wilson in Washington, the general left for France with the full support and backing of the president; and in October 1917 he was promoted full general. The authority wielded by Pershing as Commander of the AEF was unprecedented in US military history; he had *carte blanche* from Wilson and Secretary of War Baker to act as senior diplomat to the Allies, to administer the AEF and to lead it into battle. He dealt as an equal with both the chiefs of staff of the Allied forces and their heads of government; and he used this authority to resist continual pressure to release US troops to plug gaps in the front under Allied commanders, insisting on holding the AEF in reserve until it was ready to enter the field as a unified army under its own commanders. Within the US Army, the chief of staff Gen Peyton March controlled the creation of divisions and the logistics in the USA; once the troops reached France, Gen Pershing controlled everything. March and Pershing had an adversarial but businesslike relationship and worked well together (despite such petty squabbles as the "Sam Browne" controversy).

The AEF found "Black Jack" to be an energetic, somewhat cold and ramrod-straight disciplinarian. Six feet tall and robust in health, this 59-year-old was a demanding chief who held his subordinate generals to a high standard and valued loyalty; he was quick to relieve a number of them for inefficiency and poor results. Some of these dismissals were considered harshly arbitrary, but as one officer stated, "Gen Pershing demands results, and he means to get them." Pershing could be warm in personal relationships and open to new ideas, though he could also be as stubborn as a Missouri mule. Never exactly popular with the Doughboys, nonetheless he had their confidence and respect.

After the war Pershing was promoted to the five-star rank of "General of the Armies of the United States" in 1919, and became the professional head of the US Army as chief of staff two years later; he retired from the Army in 1924. Ominously, Pershing had declared on more than one occasion that "the Germans never knew they were beaten... It will have to be done all over again." With the coming of World War II, Pershing protégés such as Gens Marshall, MacArthur and Patton would be leading figures. Patton knelt next to the bedridden Pershing as if he were a seigneur of old, to receive his blessing before departing for Europe. General John J. Pershing died in July 1948 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

September 1918: famous photo of a reluctant mule holding up traffic near St Mihiel. The jamming of the few roads in the Meuse-Argonne sector was legendary, and held up the AEF's offensive.



Representative divisional order of battle, 1918:
1st Infantry Division

1st Inf Brigade
 16th Inf Regt
 18th Inf Regt
 2nd MG Bn

2nd Inf Brigade
 26th Inf Regt
 28th Inf Regt
 3rd MG Bn

1st Field Artillery Bde
 5th FA Regt
 6th FA Regt
 7th FA Regt

Divisional units
 1st MG Bn
 1st Trench Mortar Bty
 1st Engineer Regt
 2nd Field Signal Bn

1st Train HQ
 1st Supply Train
 1st Ammunition Train
 1st Engineer Train
 1st Sanitary Train
 2nd Ambulance Co
 3rd Ambulance Co
 12th Field Hospital
 13th Field Hospital

Pershing was careful to keep AEF units up to strength with replacements after each battle. In July 1918, he ordered that 10 percent of each battalion be kept out of the line during major attacks. This "10 per" rule ensured that a particularly hard hit unit always had a cadre around which to reform.

The brigade of two infantry regiments and a machine gun battalion (three companies) was a standard AEF organization. It was commanded by a brigadier general (one star) or full colonel, and its strength of 8,400 put it on a par with the combat strength of a British or French division. Four infantry regiments in two brigades were used to form the AEF "square" division of 28,000 men. This high establishment led to the French treating US divisions as ersatz corps in terms of combat commitments. Besides three integral artillery regiments, a division would have an engineer regiment, a signal battalion, and an additional large machine gun battalion (four companies).

All AEF divisions had the same table of organization, and all were designated Infantry Divisions. The 1st Division was always a "favorite son" to Pershing, and it received a slightly higher caliber of recruits and leadership. The 2nd Division was noted for having one of its brigades consisting of US Marines. The 92nd and 93rd Divisions – as described above – were composed of black troops. The 1st to 8th Divisions were designated Regular; the 26th to 42nd Divisions, National Guard; the 76th to 93rd Divisions, National Army. By the end of the war these formations were all designated simply as "Army Divisions" and all received volunteer and draftee replacements indiscriminately. Arguably, the best divisions of the AEF were the 1st, 2nd and 42nd.

Artillery, tank, engineer and supply units were also formed independently of the divisions and assigned to corps as required. Only a handful of cavalry (from the 2nd, 3rd, 6th & 15th Regiments) were deployed to France, with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment most represented.

The 332nd Infantry Regiment was assigned to the Italian Army as a token of US support on that front. During the early stages of the Russian Civil War in 1918 soldiers (e.g. 366th Infantry Regiment), sailors and marines were deployed to Russia alongside other Allied intervention forces around the ports of Archangel and Murmansk in the northwest and Vladivostok in the far east, in support of the White armies. Generally their tasks were limited to guarding the supplies of war

materials provided by the Allies, training White troops in their use, and ensuring local security – particularly of the railroad lines. The last US Marines left Vladivostok only in 1922.

Logistics

Logistics was an all-consuming issue for the leaders of the US Army. A huge army would have to be created, clothed, armed, fed and forwarded across a hostile ocean to a foreign land (and that was probably the easy part).

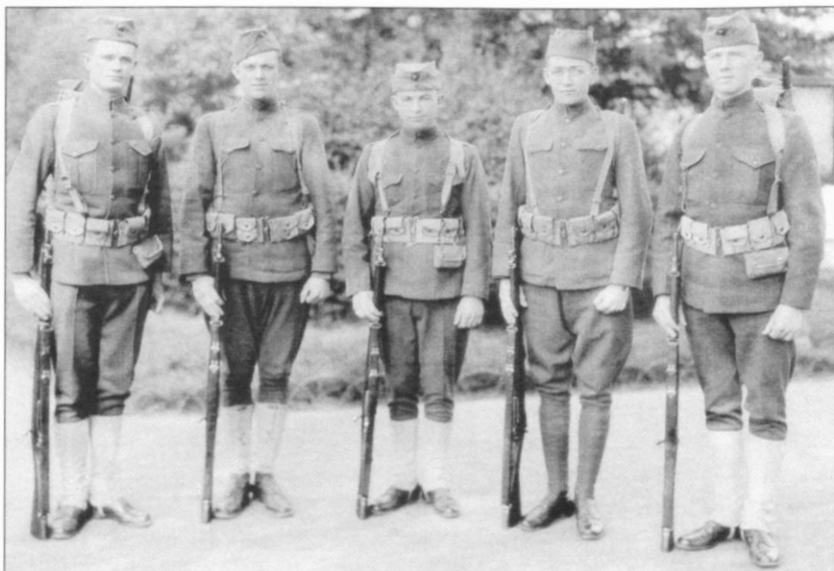
Receiving ports, warehouses, railroad transport, depots, lumber and other materials, and the use of divisional training areas would all have to be negotiated and established with French and British co-operation. General Pershing had to purchase most if not all of the airplanes, tanks, artillery, vehicles and draft animals the AEF would require, and large numbers of assorted weapons. French logistics were straining to support their own armies, millions strong, and the magnitude of support required to sustain the AEF was staggering. A massive network of logistics owned and operated by the Americans would have to be created almost from scratch. As an example, 20,000 railroad cars and 1,500 locomotives had to be brought over from the USA. The Service of Supply, numbering 175,000 men in July 1918, was the command that would operate the AEF's logistics.

Lack of shipping capacity was also a problem. Britain had a sizable merchant fleet, but claimed that keeping her vital ocean lifelines open in the face of crippling losses to U-boats limited her ability to help transport US troops. Shipping was made available, however, in the belief that it was strictly to carry US combat battalions destined for the British forces. Just over half the transports that carried the AEF to France were provided by the Royal Navy. Essentially no US troops were lost to U-boats while crossing the Atlantic in US ships, though about 300 Americans perished on torpedoed British vessels.

Air Service

Unsure where to place aircraft within the Army before World War I, the US general staff decided to attach airplanes to the Signal Corps as the Air Service Section. The Air Service was later constituted as a separate branch within the Army and in 1918 received a wings-and-propeller collar device.

The US military air forces of 1917 consisted of 55 antiquated planes but only about 26 qualified officer pilots, some of whom had been trained by the Wright Brothers. General Pershing purchased large numbers of French, British and Italian aircraft for the fledgling US Army Air Service; the only US-constructed type to reach France before the Armistice were



The initial AEF Provost Guard in Paris consisted of Army soldiers of the 1st (Reg) Div – here, second left and second right – and marines of the 5th Marine Regt, 2nd (Reg) Division. Pictured in April 1918, this group are all wearing the new overseas cap pulled well down, packs, and early “eagle snap” cartridge belts. The Army privates wear the drab tunic and breeches, with collar discs; the marines, the USMC forest green tunic and trousers, and eagle, globe & anchor badges on their caps above their company number “30”. Note the slightly oversize aid pouches particular to the Corps; and the two patterns of leggings. The “Lucky” Paris Marines were recalled to the 2nd Div just in time for the Meuse-Argonne offensive in November 1918.



French transport units frequently trucked AEF troops up to the front (it was commonly noted that "the generals trucked you into combat, but left you to walk out.") Here Vietnamese Colonial drivers carry men of the 126th Inf, 32nd (NG) Div in July 1918.

some license-built British DH-4 two-seaters, along with quantities of Liberty engines. A US squadron had an establishment of 18 aircraft; three or four squadrons were combined into a group. By the Armistice, the US had 45-plus squadrons in Europe, of which 38 were in combat.

The US Air Corps used primarily French fighters ("scouts") such as the Nieuport 28 in early 1918, soon replaced by the Spad XIII; British Sopwith Camels were also flown by four US squadrons. For reconnaissance and light bombing French Breguets were used as well as British DH-4s and DH-9s. US heavy bomber units trained and were equipped primarily by the Italians using the Caproni heavy bomber. The air service also

operated observation balloons.

American pilots were trained both in the USA and in Europe, with final combat training in France. It has been estimated that one pilot trainee was killed for every 18 pilots successfully graduated. By the end of the war, 289 US planes had been lost in action, 237 flyers had been killed (including one of President Roosevelt's sons), and 279 wounded. Individual American pilots commonly flew with Allied squadrons until US squadrons became operational in April 1918. It is estimated that US pilots downed 781 enemy aircraft and 73 balloons, with 72 Americans becoming "aces" (accounting for five or more enemy aircraft). In September 1918, Lt Frank Luke was the leading US ace with 18 kills. Having destroyed three German balloons on 29 September, he was shot down behind German lines by anti-aircraft fire, and died pistol in hand defiantly shooting it out with a German patrol; he received a posthumous Medal of Honor.

America's leading ace was 37-year-old Eddie Rickenbacker, a daredevil car racer who served in the AEF as Gen Pershing's driver until he was able to overcome concerns about his being too old to become a pilot. Assigned to the 94th Aero Squadron, which he eventually rose to command in September 1918, Rickenbacker recorded 26 aerial kills. He received a belated Medal of Honor in 1930.

UNIFORMS

M1912/1917 drab uniform

The AEF fought the war in the drab wool four-pocket M1912/17 uniform, 'drab' in this case meaning a color that could vary between a dusty brown and a mustard brown/green. This Army uniform was supplied to the AEF Marines in France in early 1918. The M1912 tunic had four patch pockets, epaulettes, and dark bronze buttons bearing the national eagle. Khaki bone or plastic eagle buttons were used on some tunics issued late in the war. The standing collar ("choker") had a hole punched in each front for the attachment of the two Army dark bronze insignia discs. The slightly simplified wartime version is known as the M1917. The M1918 version was even more simplified, with internally hung rather than patch pockets.



May 1918: a lightly wounded officer (left) is helped to the rear by a Doughboy. Fresh into the front lines, the lieutenant wears regulation service dress apart from puttees; officers would soon adopt various items of enlisted uniform as more durable, cheaper and less conspicuous, limiting insignia to their shirt collars or concealing them under "duster coats". His .45 pistol holster is the long strap cavalry model with a buckled leg strap.

October 1918: a lieutenant of Engineers examines shell fragments with his sergeant first class. The officer has a piped overseas cap and leather Stohwasser hard-shell gaiters; the senior NCO wears the rarely seen coveralls that were sometimes used by men working with vehicles or machinery. Note his sleeve insignia: three light drab chevrons and a rocker on a darker drab patch, with the Engineers' castle badge between.

The rough quality of the wool used in the M1917 uniforms produced during the war was of almost blanket quality. British Army service dress tunics were also issued to the AEF in limited numbers to make up for uniform shortages.

Drab wool breeches were worn with this tunic by all ranks, tightly laced at the lower leg. The laced legs caused some problems with circulation, especially in winter. Late in the war straight-leg trousers became available.

Besides the Army drab wool uniform, a blue denim fatigue uniform was also issued. This simple four-button coat with patch pockets and matching trousers remained the Army's fatigue uniform until replaced in 1941 with the green fatigues of World War II. A rarely seen mustard-drab cotton coverall was also used by mechanics.

Officers wore the same style of uniform as the men, with the addition of a single line of drab lace around the top of the cuff for all commissioned

ranks. The tunic and matching breeches were usually of a slightly lighter shade of drab with more of a green tone than the enlisted men's version; the material was a wool/cotton mix that was smoother and of better quality than the enlisted uniforms. This uniform was sometimes privately tailored – both in the USA and in France – in either a lighter baratheia or a heavier-wearing whipcord. In the field officers sometimes wore the enlisted uniform with the addition of rank insignia on the epaulettes.

Rank insignia came in bright metal, but the collar devices were made of a subdued bronze. For AEF officers, walking canes, trench coats and the Sam Browne belt became "de rigueur." In 1918 officers in the field began to remove, or mask under foul weather coats, such clothing or insignia as made life extra dangerous in the combat zone by identifying their status at a distance.

M1910 khaki uniform

This "summer" or "tropical" uniform was made of a medium khaki colored light cotton/canvas material. It was cut to the same pattern as the M1912 wool uniform and was worn with leggings. During the summer, the



khaki cotton trousers and the P1904/17 woolen shirt (minus the tunic) might be worn for fatigue and daily wear. This cotton uniform was used by the AEF, but it was rarely seen in the front lines.

Shirts

The Army issue was the M1916 drab wool pullover shirt, with reinforced elbow patches and a partially opening front with five bone or plastic buttons. NCO sleeve insignia were worn on the shirt, in drab on light drab backing. Due to the scratchiness of the tunic collar the wearing of the shirt collar exposed above the tunic collar was common. When shirts were worn by officers without coats, they sported a drab necktie. Branch and rank insignia were worn on shirt collars, but the details of practice changed several times during the war.

US Marines wore either the Army shirt or the two-pocket Marine P1904/1917 shirt. This was made of a light woolen flannel in a khaki drab colour, and at first glance it appears to be of pullover style, though it actually has a fully opening front. The pocket flaps are distinctively pointed, unlike those of the Army shirt.

Protective clothing

Doughboys entered the war with a long double-breasted drab wool overcoat, with large subdued eagle buttons and buttoning cuff tabs. The Army M1918 overcoat was a drab double-breasted wool overcoat that had been shortened to about knee length to make it lighter and to keep the skirts out of the mud. NCO sleeve stripes were sometimes worn on overcoats.

A short reefer-style drab wool double-breasted "mackinaw" with a shawl collar was also worn, especially by vehicle drivers; it was rarely available to line troops. The coat was hip length and featured large plain bone buttons and two patch skirt pockets. Mackinaws were popular among some AEF officers, and Gen Douglas MacArthur was noted for wearing one.

A rain poncho was worn by Doughboys during their first European winter of 1917/18. It was soon replaced by a treated drab canvas long raincoat in early 1918; this popular unlined "slicker" was found to be easier to wear in combat than the poncho, and was also worn in the summer as a "duster". This coat had metal claw fasteners instead of buttons and a single large patch pocket at the right hip.

Doughboys in Russia wore standard issue drab uniforms and equipment, sometimes supplemented in winter by the issue of fur items, and heavy British "watch coats". These were double-breasted parka/overcoats made of greenish drab canvas, lined and collared with sheepskin. Caps and



May 1918: a first lieutenant (right) and his night patrol from 42nd (NG) Div, happy to be back among friends. Two styles of overseas cap are worn: three have the squarer "Serbian" shape, and the Chauchat man and officer the taller ridged French/Belgian type – the officer's seems to have light blue Infantry piping round the turn-up flap. The men wear drab tunics, shirtsleeves or (left) a pullover sweater; the officer has high laced "aviator" field boots. Light equipment is worn for patrolling; all have pistols, with the holster flaps pushed back out of the way, and two (second left & center) have knuckleduster knives. The French M2 gasmask (left & second left) was handy to carry and gave a necessary minimum of protection.



June 1918: a wounded officer – it is hard to say from which side – is given first aid. The aid man, wearing his helmet over his overseas cap, has acquired a large 2-litre French canteen. At left is a captured German *Gefreiter*; prisoners were often pressed into service as stretcher-bearers.

Each AEF company had between two and five medical enlisted men; a battalion aid station had five to seven men under an NCO. Aid men wore on the left arm this white brassard with a red cross; usually these were also worn by stretcher-bearers – initially bandsmen, but later any detailed infantrymen – but some wore a blue brassard with a white “LB” for Litter-Bearer. Doctors might work at battalion or regimental aid stations; physicians, surgeons and dentists wore the officer’s uniform and insignia with the Medical Corps caduceus as branch device. (Chaplains also wore officer’s uniform, with the addition of a cross on the collar.)

trenchcoats, Burberrys, mackinaws and M1918 short coats.

Headgear

Both the Army and the Marines wore the Montana-peaked (“lemon squeezer”) field/campaign hat upon their arrival in France. The M1911 Army version of this hot weather hat had five lines of stitching around the brim edge for stiffening. Enlisted ranks wore hat cords of branch color, while officers wore an intertwined gold/black cord. This hat was sometimes worn with a narrow “shoelace” leather chinstrap.

Though a broad-brimmed hat was appropriate for the USA, in France sunburn was not a major problem; and soon a drab wool “overseas cap” was copied from the French *bonnet de police* and issued to the AEF early in 1918 to replace the campaign hat.

The overseas cap or sidecap was provided or procured in any number of variants on the basic pattern; those which allowed it to be pulled down square on the head, with the crown fold expanded, could be worn under the steel helmet for extra warmth. These early versions looked a bit like a boat, with later styles having an angled fold line. **Officers** wore smarter versions of this same cap piped in branch colors (e.g., medium blue for the Infantry, scarlet for the Artillery, etc.); general officers wore caps piped in gold. Officer ranks were displayed in a number of ways, but rank insignia pinned to the front left side were the most common. Enlisted men normally used the “US” collar disc, though branch discs were sometimes substituted.

The French Adrian steel helmet was issued for initial training in France in 1917, but late that year these were replaced by British (Brodie) helmets. The slightly modified M1917 American version was soon available, in manganese steel with a rough, sanded drab/green paint finish. In the trenches rare examples were seen painted in a camouflage pattern of irregular color blocks. The helmet’s leather chinstrap was sometimes worn behind the head or over the front brim.

Shoes and leggings

The US M1904/06/10 russet brown smooth-soled ankle boots were initially used by the AEF, but these were found to be too lightly constructed to stand up to the wet and rugged conditions of

the Western Front. General Pershing initially obtained French and British boots to fill the void until the American M1917/18 ("Pershing") boots could be provided. This new brown leather ankle boot was based on a combination of US and French patterns. Made of leather "rough side out", it had a reinforced hobnailed sole and a metal horseshoe heel plate; it was 4.5in high and laced with seven eyelets per side. Boots were heavily treated or greased for weatherproofing. High top rubber boots and hip waders might also be used in the trenches.

The enlisted men arriving in France initially wore tall leggings/gaiters made of khaki duck canvas, but in varying versions. Tight-fitting Spanish American War era leggings reached from below the ankle bone to the top of the calf with a partial instep covering the lacing of the boot; they laced in zig-zag fashion up the outside, and had a retaining strap beneath the arch of the foot. The M1917 version was essentially similar. There was also some early use of the M1910, a simple tubular legging reaching from the top of the ankle to the calf; this had a much simpler system of front lacing at the top, midpoint and bottom, or sometimes spiral fabric strapping. By the spring of 1918, woolen wrapped puttees were rapidly replacing the leggings. Leggings were complicated to put on and grabbed mud; puttees – as used by all the combatant armies – were also awkward to wind on, but fitted tighter to the leg, helped keep mud out of the boot tops, and limited the caking of mud. The cavalry were issued the M1917 leggings with brown leather chafing patches sewn to the inside leg.

Officers might wear any number of patterns of boots for field use, from the issue M1918 to special aviator-style lace-up leather knee boots. Rigid "clamshell" leather Stohwasser gaiters with spiral straps were also worn in the trenches. Tall dark brown riding boots and nickel spurs might be used by officers on parade.

INSIGNIA

NCO & officer rank

Non-commissioned officers wore drab cloth badges of rank based on the system of upwards-pointing chevrons on both upper sleeves. Early in 1918 the AEF authorized the wear of chevrons on the right sleeve only, and this soon became the standard. The rank and pay grade of private first class (PFC) was authorized in 1916; the insignia was the branch device worn on a round arm patch (e.g., crossed rifles for the Infantry), but it was rarely seen before the Armistice. NCO stripes were sometimes but not always worn on shirtsleeves. Branches other than the Infantry and Artillery sometimes integrated their insignia into the NCO rank badges: e.g. a sergeant in the Signal Corps might wear three chevrons with crossed flags below. The technical type rank of

September 1918: men of the 16th Inf, 1st (Reg) Div during the St Mihiel offensive. Note the issue raincoat worn as a "duster" – a popular combat garment. The right hand man has a pistol magazine pouch and binoculars as well as his rifle and bayonet, suggesting that he is a unit NCO or junior officer.



sergeant first class displayed three chevrons above an upwards arc or "rocker", with the branch insignia between them.

Officers pinned their rank insignia near the outer end of the epaulettes, though these were sometimes removed in combat to make them less conspicuous. The metal bars worn by lieutenants and captains were commonly stamped to appear as though they were bullion-embroidered. All officers wore paired branch and paired "US" collar devices. On their overcoats rank was shown only at the cuff by black trefoil knots (brown for second lieutenants). In mid 1918 the Army and Marine rank of second lieutenant was finally recognized by the authorizing for wear of gold lieutenant bars; these were seen in France in late 1918.

The "Sam Browne" belt

Though initially not considered a regulation item, the "Sam Browne" (originally invented by a 19th century British officer of that name who lost an arm in battle) was purchased by AEF officers immediately upon arrival in France. It was universally recognized by all combatants in Europe as the symbol of officer rank, and a "Sam Browne" was the AEF nickname for an officer. Despite Gen Pershing's embrace of this belt in Europe, the Army refused to recognize it as regulation wear in the United States; MPs even waited on the dockside to divest returning officers of the offending item. When Pershing became Chief of Staff of the Army in 1921, the "Sam Browne" returned to favor.

Service and wound chevrons

AEF soldiers and officers were authorized small overseas service and wound chevrons in September 1917. An overseas chevron was worn above the left cuff for each six months in theater; the largest number issued during the war was four. A wound chevron above the right cuff was awarded for each occasion a Doughboy was wounded or gassed in separate engagements. Both types of these 2in to 3in wide chevrons were worn point down, with the topmost stripe 4ins to 5ins above the cuff. Both types were normally made of gold striping or bullion. They were sometimes worn on combat tunics. Re-enlistment stripes were only worn on the dress blue tunic.

A small sky-blue chevron worn point up marked service of less than six months overseas, and a silver chevron represented six months of home service; both these variations were uncommon. A single small red chevron worn point up on the left sleeve marked a soldier who was mustering out: uniforms were authorized for continued wear for 90 days after discharge.

Collar insignia

In addition to sleeve rank insignia, US enlisted men wore subdued bronze 1in-diameter collar discs on coats. The wearer's right collar disc bore a plain "US" (regular Army), intertwined "USNG" (National Guard) or intertwined "USNA" (National Army/draftee). There were variants of



The shawl-collared mackinaw coat worn by a soldier of the 372nd Inf, one of the four black regiments which served under French command. Details to note are the two overseas service stripes on his left sleeve, the wound stripe on his right, the Croix de Guerre medal, and the interesting addition of "372" to his overseas cap - apparently French Army brass pin-on numerals.





September 1918: officers of 3rd (Reg) Div celebrate the capture of a German company canteen with a round of "Heinie" beer. The right hand man has tall spiral-strapped leather gaiters, the others laced field boots with and without double top strap; the left hand lieutenant has spurs, and two men have riding crops looped to their wrists.

OPPOSITE 1919: a Staff Officer (1A) at AEF headquarters in Germany. On his collar are the "US" cypher and General Staff eagle in dull bronze; on his cap and epaulette, the silver leaf of his rank; at the top of his left sleeve the shoulder patch of 1st Army; below this, a staff brassard in blue over white with the US national coat of arms set on a star, all in gold; and on his cuff, one gold six-months' overseas service stripe, above the dark drab braid ring worn by all officer ranks.

these discs, those with the regimental number shown below the "US" being the most common. Towards the end of the war the plain "US" disc became the universal issue. The wearer's left collar disc showed his branch of service insignia (e.g., Signal, Infantry, Artillery, etc.); they might also show the regimental number and/or company letter. Either disc might be worn on the overseas cap, though the "US" disc or variant was correct. Insignia were not normally worn on shirt collars.

Officers wore both "US" and branch insignia on both sides of the collar. These insignia were in cut-out silhouette form, i.e. unbacked by discs or mountings. The "US", "USNG", "USNA" and "USR" (Reserve) were worn in pairs at the collar opening, with the branch insignia further back. When in shirtsleeve order, officers usually wore rank on the wearer's right collar and branch on his left; regulations on this point varied over time.

Shoulder patches

The first units in the AEF to wear a divisional shoulder patch were members of the 81st Division, who arrived from the USA in the summer of 1918 wearing their "Wildcat" patch in defiance of both Army and AEF directives. AEF headquarters soon relented, and divisions and organizations were requested to forward designs for their own patches. These were to be worn on the left shoulder and to be painted onto unit transport. By the fall of 1918 these insignia had been approved, but they were only rarely fabricated and issued before the Armistice. The 81st, 5th and 2nd Divisions appear to have had patches issued to some degree prior to November 1918. Such insignia were also – in rare instances – painted onto gasmask bags and helmets. The vast majority of Doughboys did not receive or wear their unit patches until well after the Armistice. The patches were sometimes crudely made, usually cut out of felt, though painted or embroidered examples are also known.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Medal of Honor (MoH) The Congressional Medal of Honor was the highest award for bravery that could be granted to a soldier. The recipient's act of bravery had to be witnessed and recommended by an officer. During World War I members of the AEF were awarded 98 Medals of Honor. The medal's unique prestige is marked by its wear – on presentation, and thereafter with formal uniform – from a ribbon around the neck.

Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) The Army's DSC was the next highest award for bravery available to both officers and enlisted men, and was instituted in January 1918 to reward gallantry which did not merit awards of the MoH. (General Pershing requested some equivalent of the several British gallantry decorations in this category, such as the Distinguished Service Order and Distinguished Conduct Medal.) Only 100 of the first designed and issued version of the cross were awarded,



Cpl Alvin York of the 82nd (NA) Div received the Medal of Honor and promotion to sergeant for his bravery and marksmanship during the Meuse-Argonne offensive of October–November 1918. In this post-Armistice portrait Sgt York – note the whistle chain of a squad leader – is wearing his MoH, the Croix de Guerre, and his division's shoulder patch (white 'AA' for All American, on blue, on red, the backing here apparently being cut to a fancy shield shape.)

York was famous for his marksmanship; it is not widely known that his exploits were performed while armed not with a Springfield 03, but with the M1917/P17 rifle. A conscientious objector early in World War I, York would serve as the head of a local Tennessee draft board during World War II.

and the second and slightly modified version soon became the normal award. An oakleaf on the ribbon signified a second award. The first DSCs were awarded to three members of the 1st Division in March 1918. The US Navy's rough equivalent was the Navy Cross; this was instituted in 1919, and retrospectively awarded to most Marines who had already been awarded the Army DSC.

Other decorations

The *Silver Star* or *Silver Citation Star* was awarded for bravery and mention in dispatches. It was originally displayed by the wearing of an oversize (3/16th inch) silver star on the World War I Victory Medal ribbon or ribbon bar. In 1932 the Silver Star was converted into a medal in its own right, taking precedence following the DSC. The *Purple Heart* for wounds was also instituted in 1932.

The French *Croix de Guerre* medal was the most common foreign award bestowed on members of the AEF; its green and red striped ribbon, with bronze palms for additional awards, was a common sight on veterans' tunics. The *Verdun Medal* was awarded by the French shortly after the war, to members of the

2nd and 3rd Divisions for service in the Verdun/Château-Thierry sectors between March and July 1918.

Like the other Allies, the USA adopted a rainbow-colored ribbon for the American *Victory Medal*. At least 21 bars or slides could be awarded, most representing particular battles or sectors. When the ribbon was worn alone each bar was represented by a bronze star. Winners of the Silver Star would also display their star on this medal ribbon. The bars awarded include: Cambrai (May–Dec 1917); Aisne (May–Jun 1918); Aisne-Marne (Jul–Aug 1918); Somme Defensive (Mar–Apr 1918); Lys (Apr 1918); Montidier-Noyon (June 1918); Champagne-Marne (Jul–Aug 1918); Somme Offensive (Aug–Nov 1918); Oise-Aisne (Aug–Nov 1918); Ypres-Lys (Aug–Nov 1918); St Mihiel (Sept 1918); Vittorio-Veneto (Italy, Oct–Nov 1918); Meuse-Argonne (Sept–Nov 1918); Defensive Sector (generic). There are also slides for: France; a Maltese cross (France); Italy; Russia; Siberia; Grand Fleet; Overseas; and West Indies. Doughboys serving in France but not on the line wore the "France" or the Maltese cross slide on their Victory Medals.

When worn alone, medal ribbons were placed above the left breast pocket – either immediately above the top of the pocket flap or sometimes 2ins–3ins above it. They could be worn in rows four wide, and were 1in high. Awards for bravery were worn at the top and center; campaign ribbons were worn in the date sequence of the service they represented. The Marksmanship badge was worn just below any medal ribbons.

Marksmanship badges

These silvered badges were awarded in three descending grades: Expert, Sharpshooter and Marksman. The National Guard used bronze medals. The reverse was sometimes engraved with the owner's name. It was not unusual to see these badges proudly displayed just above the left breast pocket of combat tunics or shirts, by officers as well as enlisted



Men of the 5th Marines, 2nd (Reg) Div march in a victory parade in Washington, DC, in 1919; they have been re-issued their distinctive forest green uniforms. For such ceremonial events the new divisional shoulder patches were much in evidence; the star-and-Indian-head insignia is clearly visible on their left shoulders, and painted on the front of their helmets above brazed-on bronze eagle, globe & anchor badges. Their silver marksmanship badges also stand out clearly. The second man from right, marching with his weapon slung, is a BAR gunner.

men. Additional monthly pay of \$2 to \$5 “beer money” was granted for rifle qualification; a smaller pistol badge was also available.

Fourragères

“Pogey Rope” or “firehose” was the Doughboys’ name for the braided *fourragère* worn around the left shoulder. These lanyards were awarded to mark citations granted to complete units of the French Army; their colors marked the number of citations received and matched the ribbons of the main French gallantry decorations: in ascending order, green and red (Croix de Guerre), yellow and green (Médaille Militaire), and red (Légion d’Honneur). A number of US battalions and regiments which served with distinction alongside French units received the green and red *fourragère*, though it was not officially worn by

Doughboys until two or three years after the Armistice. It is worn by some US Army units to this day as a remembrance.

WEB GEAR & PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

The basic M1910 web/canvas accoutrements were used throughout the war by the AEF.² The webbing made prior to 1917 had metal snap fasteners impressed with the national eagle or Marine Corps button devices. Most items produced during the war employed “lift the dot” (LTD) fasteners – a stud and doughnut collar device more easily manipulated with cold hands on a muddy battlefield. Webbing was stamped in ink by the manufacturer with “US”, though some “USMC” stamped gear was also produced. Field gear was produced by several private manufacturers; the Mills Equipment Company was the designer as well as a major manufacturer of this equipment, and other major wartime producers included Russell and the government’s Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). Webbing was khaki colored, but some of the early items were olive green or “blancoed” with a green preservative.

The M1910 **rifle cartridge belt** had two five-pocket sections with each pocket holding two five-round brass stripper clips, placed in the pocket with the front clip bullets up and the back clip bullets down; an internal snap strap inside the pocket held the front clip in place when the pocket was left open. Cavalry pattern M1910 cartridge belts were also used by the infantry, and can be identified by a pocket missing from the right front – this was commonly replaced with a two-magazine pistol ammunition pouch. During 1917 much of the M1910 gear was being produced in canvas instead of cotton webbing; this wartime canvas gear is sometimes referred to as M1918 equipment by collectors. Belts produced prior to 1917 had “puckered” or gathered pocket bottoms and snap fasteners; this gathering was designed to restrain the pointed M1906 bullets. By 1918 most belts had “LTD” fasteners and had lost

² See also MAA 205, *US Army Equipments 1910–88*



June 1918: a sergeant of Infantry posed to demonstrate the Staff's idea of a combat soldier, which was not far from reality. At 43ins the Springfield M1903 rifle was slightly short by European standards, so a longer 16in bayonet was added to extend its reach. He wears the drab wool uniform with puttees and steel helmet; web rifle equipment; and M1910 pack with bedroll extension, T-handle shovel and mess kit bag. It was not unusual for a man pinned down by machine gun fire to have his protruding mess kit riddled.

this pucker. Various items such as canteens, bayonets and aid pouches were hung by hooks from the black metal grommets/eyelets along the edge of the M1910 belt. Though the M1910 gear was the type most commonly used, earlier one-piece M1903/07 nine-pocket web cartridge belts were also to be seen.

Additional expendable six-pocket (60 round) cloth **bandoleers** were issued to riflemen as they went forward into the line. These were lined in cardboard, as the pointed M1906 bullet would otherwise push its way through the cloth; the length of the cloth sling was simply adjusted by tying a knot.

There were several variations on the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) M1918 gunner's **magazine carrier belt**. The first pattern had a two-magazine pistol ammunition pouch and two BAR magazine pockets on the right side, and three BAR pockets on the left. The second and more common version had a metal cup on the right side; this held the butt of the BAR while firing from the hip. The assistant gunner's belt had two BAR pockets on each side, with two regular rifle pockets on each side of the front buckle. A six-pocket BAR belt was also used; and a three-pocket bandoleer was manufactured, though it is unclear if these reached the trenches. Each Browning ammo pocket held two 20-round magazines.

The web M1912 **pistol belt** was issued to soldiers who had no need to carry a rifle cartridge belt. Like the rifle belt, it had numerous metal eyelets for hooking on associated equipment: the pistol holster and magazine pouch, canteen and first aid pouch, as well as the backpack. Officers, senior NCOs, machine gunners and hospital men commonly used this belt.

When available, the M1907 web **suspenders** could be worn with either belt to help distribute the weight, although it was intended for the M1910 "**haversack**" (**backpack**) to be worn with these belts and for its belt attachments to serve this purpose. The overly complex M1910 haversack was an awkward carry when fully loaded, and could only be worn in conjunction with the rifle or pistol belts. In the assault it was packed much lighter and smaller; unfortunately, to get something out of the pack it had to be fully opened. A blanket could be carried rolled and attached to the bottom of the pack, making it a "longpack."

The Army wool **blanket** was initially tan colored with a darker over-stripe reminiscent of the Civil War issue, and an embroidered "US" in the center. These blankets were rapidly supplemented by plain drab wool blankets sometimes stenciled with "US". In 1918, the AEF began to carry a blanket rolled horseshoe-style in a canvas shelter half around the outside of the pack.

Bayonets were hooked on the left side of the pack or belt. The scabbards were of wood covered with rawhide, with an outer sheath of khaki web and a russet leather tip. The "T"-handle shovel/**entrenching tool** and the messkit both had canvas covers and attached to the back center of the pack. A small two-piece M1910 pick/mattock set could also be carried.

Officers used haversacks of several patterns, generically called by the French term "musette." They sometimes carried their effects rolled into a blanket/poncho horseshoe "Rebel roll" worn bandoleer style, as called for by pre-war regulations. Besides a haversack, an officer might

carry a mapcase, compass and binoculars. Medical personnel and Chauchat automatic rifle teams carried special haversacks.

Grenades were carried in pockets and haversacks; sandbags were also used, as were canvas buckets. A specially made 11-pocket grenade vest with plain snap closures was issued by mid 1918. These vests, used to carry both hand grenades and VB rifle grenades (see below) were commonly worn on one hip supported by a tied loop over the wearer's opposite shoulder. The special M1914 medical belt with its eight large pockets was also pressed into service to carry grenades.

The canvas **shelter half** was usually carried wrapped around a blanket or folded within the pack. As with most "dog" tents, this shelter half buttoned together with a partner's half to form a low two-man tent. Four wooden tent pegs, a rope and a three-piece metal jointed wood tent pole were included in the set. A poncho or raincoat could be thrown over the open end to extend and close the tent.

The M1910 **aid pouch** was a plain snap-fastened web or canvas pocket that carried a wound bandage contained in a brass case sealed with lead; this could be ripped open by a pull tab. Later dressings were wrapped in waterproof canvas.

The M1908 **wirecutters**, carried on the belt in an LTD-fastened open top case, were found to have a problem cutting the German manganese barbed wire; large French M1918 wirecutters were also issued, in a leather belt carrier.

The M1910 **canteen** was aluminum and held one quart; the canteen cup was carried in the bottom of the insulated canteen cover with the canteen nesting into it. The date and manufacturer were usually marked on the side of the canteen and the bottom of the cup. Veteran soldiers often carried two canteens into action.

Doughboys used the voluminous canvas **dufflebag** to carry the rest of their clothing and gear; normally stamped with the owner's name, this was left behind when they went to the front.

Gasmasks

Doughboys were initially issued the French M2, a simple mask made of a resin-impregnated cloth; the filter was integral to the mask and no can or hose was used. It was carried in a pancake-shaped canvas satchel. When the British Small Box Respirator (SBR) was issued to US troops in early 1918, the M2 was retained and carried as a back-up. The SBR (reportedly based on a US ore miner's protective mask) had a snorkel mouthpiece and a nose clip integral to the mask, which was linked by a corrugated, fabric-covered rubber tube to a separate filter canister carried in a satchel. This was worn high



Front view of a private from the same date; here the blanket is strapped round the top of the pack in a horseshoe roll. This view emphasizes the breeches' tightness at the knee; they were uncomfortable, and complicated to manufacture. He has the M1917 gasmask slung on his left hip; less clear here is the previously issued French M2 on his right hip, retained as a back-up. The excellent M1907 marksman's leather sling with brass adjusting claws could be fitted to two alternative swivels on the forestock of the Springfield and Enfield rifles.

LEFT June 1918: two sets of Doughboys' gear laid out for inspection in front of a "pup tent" created from the two men's shelter halves with poles and cords. Just visible on the soldier's chest are his "dog tags", exposed for inspection. The eight long boxes at the foot of the tentpole contain crackers.



November 1918: an elderly Frenchman who has lived under German occupation since 1914 greets his liberators. The Doughboy from the 77th Div still has the Chauchat automatic rifle; despite the issue of the new BAR and M1917 Browning machine gun many older divisions kept their French automatic weapons until after the Armistice. This gives a good view of the fully stowed M1910 "long pack"; and note the overcoat cut short above the knees.

on the chest when in the "ready" position" with a length of cord tied around the back to keep the bag from bouncing on the move.

The American CE ("Corrected English") box respirator, available in mid 1918, was a slightly improved copy of the SBR. It had a large number stamped on the nose of the mask to show size, and a small card was kept with the bag to record that mask's use history. The bag was similar to the British one except for LTD fasteners replacing the British pebble-finish brass snaps on the flap, and a metal claw which held the bag up in the high "ready" position.

The mask was described as: "A hot and stifling thing that seems to impede the faculties... Imagine fighting with a clothespin on your nose and a bag over your mouth and you may be able to get some notion of what a gas mask is like." These masks did not protect the user from chemical burns on exposed skin, as commonly caused by "mustard gas". Uniforms could become so heavily impregnated with chemicals as to require quick disposal.

Rations

"We discarded all surplus clothing and equipment. I carried a pack consisting of one blanket, one shelter half, one messkit, my toilet articles and my overcoat. In addition, I had my rifle, bayonet, cartridge belt and two bandoleers of ammunition, also two grenades and my gasmask. We carried reserve rations of hard bread, raw bacon and a canteen of water. I also carried one auto pistol..." (Sgt Drager, 115th Inf, 29th (NG) Division, October 1918).

Cook wagons prepared hot food for soldiers whenever possible, and this "hot chow" would be carried up to the company positions in thermal marmite containers, with cans of hash and bread or potatoes in sandbags. Two-day reserve field rations issued for carrying by soldiers were mostly from US sources. Food in the trenches consisted of canned hash ("Bill/Willie" in reference to the Kaiser), canned salmon or sardines ("goldfish"), salt pork ("sowbelly"), hard bread ("crackers"), jam, canned tomatoes (a favorite), pork & beans ("repeaters", or "bullets in a pot"), bacon, dried fruit and instant coffee. A thoroughly disliked item was the French-supplied canned Argentine or Madagascan beef & carrot stew. Canned meat of any kind was commonly referred to as "monkey" or "kangaroo"; meat stews were called "slum." A delicacy was the "trench doughnut" – bread dough fried in bacon fat and covered with sugar. Behind the front line Salvation Army canteens made the doughnut a specialty, and earned the SA women workers the nickname "doughnut girls". An emergency ration (armour/iron ration) can of meat, bread and chocolate was also carried but was not to be consumed unless authorized by an officer. Tobacco (Bull Durham), cigarettes and candy (lemon drops)

(continued on page 33)

- 1: Private, 1st Division, summer 1917
- 2: Private, 5th Division, April 1918
- 3: Private, Corps of Engineers, March 1918
- 4: Eagle button
- 5: Officer's identity tag



- 1: Telephone operator, Signal Corps, 1918
2: Nursing, Army Nurse Corps, 1918
3: First Lieutenant, Army Air Service, 1918



1: Private, 3rd Division; Château-Thierry, June 1918

2: Private, 5th Marines, 2nd Division; Belleau Wood, June 1918

3: Private, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division; Belleau Wood, June 1918



- 1: Sergeant, 42nd Division; St Mihiel, September 1918
 2: Private first class, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 1918
 3: Sergeant, Military Police, 1918
 4: National Army collar disc

4



1



2

3

- 1: Private, 369th Infantry; Champagne, summer 1918
2: First Lieutenant, 370th Infantry; Champagne, 1918
3: Private, 32nd Division, 1918



- 1: Private, Signal Corps, July 1918
2: Private, 30th Division, July 1918
3: Sergeant, Medical Corps, 1918



1: Major General, 1918

2: Staff Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery, 1918

3: Private, staff runner, 1918



1: Private first class, BAR gunner, 79th Division; October 1918

2: Private, 5th Division; November 1918

3: Corporal, 3rd Division; January 1919



were issued free. Jellied gasoline or "Sterno" (canned heat) was issued to soldiers for smokeless cook fires; artillery guncotton was also used for the same purpose.

WEAPONS

SMALL ARMS

The bolt action M1903 Springfield was the standard issue rifle of the US Army from about 1905. Its powerful, flat-shooting .30in caliber cartridge, approved in 1906 and designated the 30-06 ("thirty ought six"), had a copper-jacketed sharp point "spitzer" 150 grain bullet. The "03" was loaded from a five-round stripper clip, and the rimless US cartridge functioned more smoothly than the rimmed-base French and British ammunition – rimmed ammo stacked in clips and magazines is always troublesome. Relatively short at 43in with a 24in barrel, the 03 weighed 8.7lbs. It had a metal foresight cover that was removed in action; a three-snap canvas action cover was available but rarely used. The Springfield took a 16in M1905 bayonet; the M1905 leather scabbard was less common than the leather-tipped canvas M1910 model.

The official American arsenals of Rock Island (RIA) and Springfield (SA) had severe problems keeping up with demand for Springfields from the rapidly expanding Army. Limited numbers of old Krag rifles were issued for training, but were unsuitable for trench use. Civilian US arms manufacturers like Remington, Remington Eddystone and Winchester already had a rifle in British .303in caliber in production, the P14. A version of this could be delivered to the US Army quicker than waiting for

the factories to convert their lines for the M1903; the resulting 30-06 M1917 rifle is also known as the M1917 Enfield, Remington Eddy-stone, M17 or P17. It weighed 8lbs and was 46ins long with a 26in barrel; Doughboys accepted it with few complaints, although the Springfield was the preferred rifle. The M1917's sighting and handling was said by some to be superior to the 03; the low placement of the bolt handle close to the trigger speeded up the working of the action. The M1917 used the same five-round stripper clip as the 03, but could hold six rounds. This rifle took the special 17in M1917 Enfield bayonet that was also used on the M1897 shotgun. The early AEF divisions arrived in France with the 03 but many of the follow-on divisions with the M1917; surprisingly, well over half the AEF were armed with this rifle.

The most commonly used sling for these rifles was the M1907, of russet brown leather with brass claw adjusters; specially developed for marksmanship use, it could be tightened around the left arm to steady the aim. The simpler cotton web Kerr sling was also issued. A pull-through cleaning kit and brass oiler could be stored in the butt of the rifle. For every ten men a screw-together cleaning rod was issued in a canvas case. The

April 1918: infantrymen of the 1st (Reg) Div in an advanced listening post close to German lines. The Springfield M1903 rifle is displayed to good effect; note the metal sight hood at the muzzle. This Regular has an early M1905 leather-covered bayonet scabbard, but later web pouches with LTD fasteners; his British SBR gasmask satchel is tied steady with a cord around his waist.



May 1918: a soldier from the 42nd (NG) Div wearing thigh-length trench waders and fighting order, with his bayonet scabbard fixed to the left side of his belt. The 16in Springfield bayonet was initially produced in a bright finish; the soldiers darkened them with lamp smoke to cut reflection, especially at night, and in the last months of the war a factory-blued version was available.



famous "3 in 1" oil was used to treat the 03s and M1917s and most other AEF weapons. Both rifles could take a modified VB rifle grenade discharger cup.

The black US troops attached to the French Army were mainly issued the French M1907/15 Berthier rifle which took an 8mm rimmed cartridge in three- or five-round clips. The older Lebel M1886 rifle may also have been issued in limited numbers. One black Doughboy recalled the French rifles as "(our) biggest disappointment... their Lebel's were nowhere near as good as our Springfields... Their rifles seemed more or less something to put a bayonet on." Individual French rifles fitted with VB grenade launchers were sometimes used in US units armed with Springfields.

Imperial Russia had placed contracts with Remington and Westinghouse for the manufacture of M1891 Mosin-Nagant rifles in 7.62mm caliber. When the Tsarist collapse in 1917 led to cancellation of these contracts, the US government bailed out the manufacturers by purchasing large existing stocks for training use (they were also used by Allied soldiers of the intervention forces in Russia after the war). Long and heavy, with an archaic socket bayonet, the Mosin-Nagant was judged clumsy but relatively sound by US soldiers reluctantly obliged to use them.

American units assigned to the British sector of the front were usually issued British weapons to ease the supply of ammunition: Lewis light and Vickers medium machine guns and the Enfield SMLE No.1 Mk III rifle, all using the rimmed .303in cartridge. The Enfield was a rugged rifle with a fast, smooth action, and a deep ten-round magazine. For the Doughboys these advantages did not outweigh its greater weight or its rimmed cartridges (though these were far more likely to cause feed problems in the machine guns rather than the rifle).

Each division was authorized 96 **sniper rifles**, and though a handful of marksmen preferred open "iron" sights the scope-mounted 03 was their standard weapon. The Marines had a small number of somewhat fragile Winchester A5 scopes, but the vast majority of AEF snipers had the squat M1908/13 Warner & Swasey 5x scope. The rifle/scope combinations were all assembled at the Springfield Arsenal; the main field modification made to them was that snipers invariably removed the rubber eye pad.

General Pershing authorized the purchase of the M1897 Winchester 12 gauge pump action **shotgun** as a trench weapon in 1917; this "drafted" riot gun was altered to accept the M1917 US Enfield bayonet. It carried six shells, each containing nine .00 (.32 caliber) buckshot slugs; Doughboys often carried shells in their pockets or stuffed into M1910 rifle belts. A 32-round canvas pouch (M1918) was produced, but it is unknown

if these ever reached the trenches; some civilian Mills web shotgun belts may have been used. With a 20in barrel the shotgun had limited range, but excelled for night actions, trench-clearing and guarding prisoners. The Germans hated it and made formal protests to Geneva over its use. Interestingly, one of the original rationales for procuring these weapons was for shooting thrown German grenades out of the air. The shotguns were in common issue by August 1918 in time for the St Mihiel battle. It is unlikely that the newer M1912 Winchester and M10 Remington pump shotguns reached France before the Armistice.

Officers and many NCOs, runners, machine gunners and cavalymen carried **pistols** in action. John Browning's Colt M1911 semi-automatic pistol, admired for its durability, held seven .45in man-stopping 230 grain bullets (referred to as 45 ACP – Automatic Colt Pistol). The first magazines had a lanyard ring, as officials were sure that the user would lose them. Commonly termed the “45 automatic”, the pistol was intended to be carried “cocked and locked” with a round in the chamber; it was, however, commonly carried with the hammer down.

This weapon was carried in a “US”-stamped brown leather flap holster on the right hip. The M1912 cavalry holster had an extended length and swivel feature and was also used by officers. The rare Marine version had a stud to hold the flap open in lieu of a swivel, and was stamped “USMC”. The fixed M1916 flap holster was more commonly used as the war went on. A two-pocket web magazine pouch was mounted on the front of the pistol belt; a drab lanyard was available but rarely used.

Shortages of the M1911 pistol caused the Army to accept Colt and Smith & Wesson double action revolvers converted to take 45 ACP ammunition; these six-shot weapons are referred to as M1917 revolvers. Like the M1917 rifle, they had been made in quantity for the British and were converted for use by the AEF, quickly becoming as common as the 45 automatic. The 45 ACP cartridges being rimless, they were held in the cylinder by a three-round half moon clip (“shim”). The M1917 revolvers were manufactured by Smith & Wesson (New Century) and Colt (New Service) to somewhat different designs. A small number of the earlier M1892/M1905 revolvers in the anaemic .38 caliber were also issued within the AEF, as were M1909 .45 Long Colt revolvers. All these revolvers were carried in brown leather M1909/17 half flap holsters.

Doughboys used a wide variety of French **grenades** and British “Mills bombs” as well as US-made types. Grenades were usually termed offensive (OF) or defensive (DF) in the French manner. Offensive types were essentially “stun” grenades, with high blast but little fragmentation, that could be thrown by men charging forward towards their target. The US OF grenade was the Mk III, made of laminated paper and weighing 12oz; it was not popular, as the Doughboys had rather kill Germans and chance the fragments. DF grenades were the traditional fragmentation bombs; the first US model (Mk I) was used in combat, but the firing mechanism proved faulty and “too safe”. Made of cast iron, the improved Mk II weight 22oz and was well liked. Limited numbers of primitive teargas, smoke (phosphorous) and incendiary (thermite) grenades were also



July 1918: while it is hard to make out against the background of sandbags – note the highlight against black shadow just ahead of his helmet rim – this sniper from the 127th Inf, 32nd (NG) Div is using a Springfield 03 factory fitted with the box-like M1913 Warner & Swasey 5x scope.

A private from the 32nd (NG) Div disassembles his M1915 CSRG Chauchat automatic rifle in a second line trench. The "Sho-Sho" was a hastily designed and manufactured weapon; some Doughboys claimed it was made out of old sardine cans – this was untrue, though it was made in a former bicycle factory. It was a finicky weapon that had to be cleaned and "babied" carefully if it was to work reliably, and inaccuracy was inherent to the design; but at short range it at least gave the infantry squad some volume of firepower, which was what they needed. The first twelve AEF divisions in France received the 8mm French model; later arrivals were issued an M1918 version modified (very badly) for US 30-06 ammunition – this was a real nightmare, and was largely responsible for the Chauchat's lasting bad reputation.



available. Live grenades were painted gray and training grenades dull red. Grenades might be carried in pockets, haversacks, buckets, 11-pocket grenade vests or ten-pocket medic's belts.

The French Vivien-Bessière (VB) rifle grenade was also used by the AEF, its cup launcher (*tromblon*) being modified to fit the muzzle of the 03 Springfield or the P17. This small grenade had a hole in its center; a bulleted round was fired, the bullet arming the seven-second time fuze as it passed through and the gas pressure propelling the grenade out to about 200 yards. Signal rockets could also be fired from the VB cup, which was carried in a leather or later a canvas bag on the belt. Particularly brave soldiers might fire two grenades from the cup with one shot.

Two basic types of trench or fighting **knives** were issued to the AEF in 1918; both had "knuckle duster" handguards so that they could be used for punching as well as stabbing. The M1917 had a darkened 9in triangular section blade and was carried in a narrow leather and metal scabbard; some of the later M1917/18 variations were issued in only limited numbers before the Armistice.

The Mk 1 trench knife was developed by the AEF and initially made under French contract. Its 6.5in double edged blade was marked with a prone lion, and its most distinctive feature was its all bronze handle marked "US 1918". It was carried in a small black metal scabbard made to attach to the inside of the web pistol or cartridge belt.

The M1910/1917 "bolo" was commonly issued at a scale of one per squad. Its wide 10in blade was intended for general field use, e.g. cutting brush; machine gun teams used them to clear their fields of fire. The M1917 version differs only in the lack of a catch button for securing it in its canvas and leather scabbard. A rare metal scabbard was also used. The small M1910 handaxe was also issued to Doughboys in the trenches.

Several patterns of brass/steel **flare pistols** were generically termed "Verrey pistols" after a British manufacturer, though both French and British types were used. The Remington Mk III became the most common US model to reach the trenches.

Automatic rifles (light machine guns)

The standard automatic rifle used by the AEF throughout the war was the French 8mm M1915 CSRG or Chauchat (to most Americans, "Sho-Sho" or "Shoo-Shoo"). This ugly weapon had a reputation for jamming and poor accuracy, but a careful reading of its history shows it to have been simple, cheap and relatively reliable. Its open bolt operation and open-sided 20-round magazine did make it a magnet for dirt, and the frail magazine often caused problems. With a rate of fire of 250 rpm, the Chauchat could be fired semi- or fully automatic; it weighed 22lbs, and could be fired on the move (with some difficulty). Inexperienced gunners putting their face near the rear of the action would receive a distinctive bruise on their right cheek. Marine Lt Sam Meeks said of it: "That damn Chauchat, it was a lousy

weapon in many ways, but it was another dirt absorber. It was not very accurate, but it usually worked, and this is a great asset in the type of combat we were in. You could use it like a hose.” A later, badly redesigned M1918 version that took the US 30-06 cartridge was partly responsible for the Chauchat’s overall bad reputation. The first 12 AEF Divisions used only the 8mm version; if handled carefully, it served the Doughboys well. A Chauchat team consisted of the gunner and two ammo carriers, all issued with four-magazine French Chauchat haversacks; 16 guns were issued to each company.

The Chauchat was to have no competitors until the arrival just before the Armistice of the .30cal M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle – probably the finest combat small arm fielded during the war. Produced by Winchester (and later by Marlin & Colt), it was initially used in combat by Lt Browning (the designer’s son) and a detachment of the 2nd US Cavalry in September 1918. The “light Browning” (the term BAR was post war) could be fired fully or semi-automatic, at a theoretical rate of 500rpm; it had a 20-round magazine and weighed just 17 pounds. The light Browning had an extra-long three-claw brown leather sling but no bipod. This outstanding automatic rifle would remain in the US inventory until the late 1960s; it was well manufactured, reliable, tough, mobile and accurate, and the Doughboys begged for it. The new AEF divisions received the Browning first, and it was phased into the veteran units in stages; the 79th Division was the first to be fully equipped, and both the 79th and 36th Divisions had them in combat by the Meuse-Arronne offensive of October 1918.

CREW-SERVED WEAPONS

The US Army’s inability to settle on a viable **machine gun** before its entry into World War I was nothing short of shameful. They did have on hand a few M1904 Maxim guns and M1895/1914 Colt “potato diggers”; but in 1914 the Army’s Ordnance experts (unlike the US Marines) inexplicably dismissed the battle-tested Lewis gun and most other candidates in favor of the M1909 Benet-Mercié. This performed miserably on the range as well as in the 1916 Mexico campaign. In 1917 war found the Army with essentially no practical machine gun in its inventory; with enormous numbers required to arm the AEF, Gen Pershing had no choice but to purchase what was available from the French and British. The limited number of Lewis guns in the possession of the Marines and Army were grudgingly turned over to training units and the Air Service in the name of uniformity of logistics.

The machine gun units of the first 12 AEF divisions were armed with the air-cooled 8mm French M1914 Hotchkiss. Fed with metal strip trays of 24 or 30 cartridges, these guns were fairly reliable and hard-hitting, with a cyclic rate of 400-500rpm; but Doughboys complained about their

Artillery and support troops were the only part of the 83rd (NA) Div to see action – the formation was mainly a depot division. Here artillerymen man an 8mm French M1914 Hotchkiss machine gun, standard issue to the AEF – alongside the British Vickers – until the arrival of the Browning M1917 in the fall of 1918. The gun is rigged here for anti-aircraft use on a home-made post mount; the crew wear gasmask satchels and holstered revolvers.



weight and clumsiness. The gun and tripod each weighed 54lbs, and mules and carts were normally used to transport them.

The water-cooled British Vickers machine gun was essentially a lightened and improved Maxim. It weighed 42lbs wet and the tripod another 56lbs; its rate of fire was 500rpm, fed by 250-round web belts. In one of its more enlightened peace-time moments the US Army adopted the M1915 Vickers in 30-06, and Colt began manufacture in 1916; unfortunately, only 125 guns were ordered at that time...

Over 7,600 US Vickers ultimately reached France before the Armistice, and 11 AEF Divisions were equipped with it. The M1915 Vickers was preferred over the French Hotchkiss and was as well liked by the Doughboys as the new Browning.

The new Browning belt-fed M1917 machine guns began to reach units during the fall of 1918. This water-cooled weapon designed by John Browning, and manufactured in 30-06 by Colt, Westinghouse & Remington, was arguably the best of its type in the war. It weighed a "light" 35lbs wet, plus 50lbs for the tripod, and had a rate of fire of about 500rpm. The Browning first saw combat with the 78th Division at the end of September 1918; by the Armistice only 1,168 had reached the front lines. The belt-fed M1917 and the BAR were released to American forces



October 1918: the son of John Moses Browning – inventor of the .45 pistol, M1917 machine gun and BAR – served as a lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps and toured AEF units demonstrating new weapons. Here (left) he shows men from the 80th (NA) Div the M1917, which reached the front in the last months of the war.



June 1918: a forward observer's fire mission is relayed by field telephone to a 75mm battery of the 15th Field Artillery, 2nd (Reg) Division. At left foreground the battery officer, with megaphone, stands ready to pass firing instructions to the crews.

The excellent "French 75" in action with an AEF battery, in front of a rapidly growing pile of empty shell cases. "When the order to commence firing was given, the guns hurled their 75mm shells at the German positions at a rate of 30 rounds per minute. The fire was so rapid that wet blankets had to be wrapped around the gun barrels for ten minutes each hour to cool them off" (Capt H.Truman, D Battery, 129th FA, 35th (NG) Division). Even so, the 30rpm he quotes was, of course, for a four-gun battery, not a single piece.



in large numbers only on the eve of the Meuse-Argonne offensive of October 1918. It is said that Pershing held up their issue to prevent the Germans from capturing and copying them; additionally, he hoped the surprise effect would be heightened by using them en masse. General Hunter Liggett referred to this weapon as the "the best machine gun that appeared in the war."

The French M1916 **37mm direct fire gun** (1pdr or "toy gun") was used by the AEF at regimental and brigade level. This single shot weapon fired a small explosive shell that would pierce armor plate at 2,500 yards, and a 32-slug canister round could also be used against infantry; it proved especially effective at suppressing snipers and machine guns. A practised crew of three could maintain a rate of 20 rounds per minute. A gun shield was provided, but rarely seen in use.

The AEF used the British 3in Stokes **mortar**, which could throw an 11lb HE bomb about 1,000 yards. Each regiment had at least six, usually giving a division 36 mortars. The tube weighed 43lbs, the baseplate 28lbs and the tripod 37lbs; mortars were usually carried in carts or by mules except in the forward areas. Mortars were very effective and well liked, although they drew fire in the trenches. Soldiers of the 26th Division hit upon the novel idea of clearing out deep German bunkers by hand-dropping fuzed mortar bombs down exposed ventilation and smoke stacks. The AEF also had six independent companies of 4in Stokes Chemical Mortars. These heavy weapons weighed 242lbs, and could fire phosphorous (smoke) and chemical munitions.

Artillery

The declaration of war found the US Army short of huge numbers of artillery pieces for the AEF. The 3in M1902 gun and some viable heavier pieces were available, but only in small numbers. It made more sense to adopt the superb French 75mm and French and British heavier pieces, since both the guns and ammunition were available in theater. AEF artillery regiments had three battalions with a total of 24 guns; there were two four-gun batteries per battalion, each split into two two-gun sections. Battalions were commanded by majors, batteries by captains and sections by lieutenants. Integral support for the infantry of each AEF division was provided by two regiments of 75mm guns (48 tubes) and one of 155mm howitzers (24 tubes). By Allied standards, these 72 tubes were inadequate for a 28,000-man division, but the AEF made up for this by calling upon US and Allied corps and army level heavy artillery units to support the divisions.

The French M1897 75mm field gun was one of the wonder weapons of the war. Its twin hydraulic cylinder recoil-absorbing system allowed the gun to stay on target; not having to move and relay the piece after the recoil of each shot greatly increased the rate of fire. This horse-drawn gun,

with a range of about 9,000 yards, was relatively light and handy, and its reliability made it a favorite with US artillerymen. Unfortunately, World War I was not a war of maneuver, and the 75mm was too light for bombarding serious trench works.

The French 155mm Schneider howitzer provided an AEF division's heavy artillery. Originally designed pre-war by the French for the Russian Army, they were used in large numbers by the French and later the US armies. With a range of 13,00 yards, the howitzer proved very successful and was later used as the basis for the American 155mm guns of World War II. Heavier support was provided by independent artillery battalions controlled at corps and army level and using 155mm, 8in and 9.2in pieces. The US Army Coast Artillery manned some of these units, and both the Army and Navy manned US 14in railroad guns.

October 1918: French Renault FT 17 light tank manned by the AEF's 344th Tank Battalion. Just visible on the track to the left of the open driver's doors are two of the little 37mm rounds for the turret gun, which was loaded and fired by the commander. The AEF retained the French system of tactical markings, with companies and platoons identified by "playing card" symbols on variously shaped white backgrounds and individual vehicles by numbers. Here the white disc identifies 1st Co, the heart 2nd Ptn; the Renault displayed today in the US Army Museum at Fort Meade, MD, the actual "Five of Hearts" whose exploits are described in the accompanying text.

VEHICLES

When the US Army entered the war they had no **tanks**. French Renault FT 17 light tanks were purchased, and Maj George S. Patton volunteered to form the first US tank units. The 14,500lb Renault had a two-man crew and was armed with either an 8mm machine gun or a 37mm gun (the same weapon as described above for infantry support); its 35hp gasoline engine could manage a top speed of 5mph – painfully slow under any conditions, particularly under heavy machine gun fire. The Renault's armor was 16mm at its thickest, and even close range rifle shots could wound or blind the crew by flaking off fragments of "spall" from its inside surface. The tank commander/gunner communicated with the driver in front of him by shouting and kicking. The turret was turned by the gunner grabbing handles and physically slewing it round; the 37mm gun suspended in its mantlet was shoulder-fired, somewhat like a bazooka, and reloaded like a single-shot bolt action rifle. There were also two small ports in the turret through which a pistol could be fired in extremis.

The Renault "Five of Hearts" got ahead of infantry support in the

October 1918 Meuse-Argonne attacks, and suffered as follows: "... my driver was wounded in the throat, and at the time our engine stalled. Our firepower was not far from zero because the 37mm gun was jammed in the depressed position from MG bullets fired from close quarters. Several times I had to put my entire weight on the breech so as to elevate the piece, but now this had become ineffective. Our projectiles would hit the ground only a few yards from the tank. The turret could not be rotated because it too was jammed with bullets... my wounded driver kept filling pistol clips and I produced as much fire as possible with my pistol... The constant hammering of the German machine guns at close range was terrific. The hinges on the doors could not stand up under it for long and the mushroom ventilator on top of the turret gave way."

The AEF had two tank battalions (326th & 327th) with 144 tanks in action by the St Mihiel



offensive in September 1918. There were five tanks in a platoon, four platoons in a company and four companies in a battalion. One US battalion equipped with much heavier British Mk V tanks was also fielded by the AEF in the St Quentin sector of the British front. Trained in England and sporting British-style red/yellow epaulette loops, this unit stayed in the British sector and supported US units fighting alongside the British Army. A Tank Corps was also formed at Camp Colt (Gettysburg, PA) by a Maj Dwight Eisenhower. Neither the stateside tank corps or Maj Eisenhower reached France before the Armistice. The current motto of US tankers originated in 1918 France: "Treat'em Rough".

Non-combat vehicles

The US Army had used motor vehicles in Mexico in 1916 with some success, but possessed only a hodge-podge of vehicles in 1917. The Model T Ford and Dodge 1/2-ton vehicles had proved themselves in ambulance work with the Allies, and the US government purchased large numbers of them. Patriotic American citizens also donated significant numbers of a variety of motor vehicles for use by the AEF; it is estimated that 294 distinct makes and models of cars and trucks served during the war.

By 1917 this had become a mechanized war and the Allies needed more than light cars to meet their needs. In one of its most successful manufacturing efforts, the US government produced standardized "Liberty" trucks in large numbers, the majority of the parts being interchangeable. These vehicles proved to be real workhorses for the Allied armies. Standard "A" Liberty Trucks were 1 1/2-ton 4x2 vehicles produced by White and Packard. Standard "B" trucks were 3- to 5-ton 4x2 vehicles produced by 15 different manufacturers, powered by 52hp four-cylinder engines with a top speed of 15mph. Some 7,600 of these "B" trucks (which usually carried no makers' marks but a "USA" on the radiator) went overseas. Mack also produced a very durable and popular 5 1/2-ton heavy truck.

Harley-Davidson, Excelsior and Cleveland motorcycles (some with sidecars) were used as courier vehicles.

Horses, mules and donkeys were used by the AEF for hauling artillery, machine guns and supplies near the front. Throughout the war, the US provided huge numbers of horses and mules to the Allies, but the later failure of the French to provide promised draft animals to the AEF caused much delay to strained US logistics.

Payscale

Valuing soldiers in the hour of need, and perhaps realizing that many draftees were family men, the US government increased a private's monthly pay from \$15 to \$30 in June 1917. This made the Doughboy the best paid soldier of the war. Enhanced rates were paid to specialists such as cooks, clerks, and mechanics, as well as for rifle qualification; and aviators received a 50 percent increase for flight pay. Each time a soldier re-enlisted he increased his pay by about \$3. Monthly base pay was as follows:

	1917	1918
Private	\$15	\$30
Pfc	\$18	\$33
Mechanic/ farrier	\$21	\$36
Corporal	\$21	\$36
Sergeant	\$30	\$42
SgtMaj	\$45	\$51
1st Sgt	\$45	\$51
QMSgt	\$45	\$51
2nd Lt	\$141	\$150

FURTHER READING

- For more information on the AEF in World War I, the following books are recommended:
- H.Berry, *Make the Kaiser Dance* (1978)
C.Brannen, *Over There* (1996)
B.Canfield, *US Infantry Weapons of the First World War* (2000)
F.Freidel, *Over There* (1964)
J.Gawne, *Over There!* (1997)
G.Mead, *The Doughboys* (2000)
H.Otoupalik, *World War I Collectors' Handbook* (1977)
L.Stallings, *Doughboys* (1965)
J.Thomason, *Fix Bayonets* (1929)
G.Urwin, *The US Infantry* (1988)
- DoughboyCenter:*
<http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/dbc2.htm>

THE PLATES

A1: Private, 1st Division, summer 1917

The elements of the 1st AEF Division, packed with volunteers around a cadre of regulars, were rushed over to France in the summer of 1917 to show the flag. This "Sammie", fresh off the boat, wears the M1912 drab wool uniform, complete with the M1917 side-laced canvas leggings and the Montana-peaked campaign hat (here with blue infantry hat cord) characteristic of the Americans of 1917. By 1918, he would be nicknamed a "Doughboy", and would have a gasmask, helmet, shovel, grenades and cloth ammunition bandoleers added to his burden. His M1910 pack ("haversack") has the bedroll extension which made it the "long pack"; a blanket, shelter half and raincoat ("slicker") were also commonly worn around the top of the pack horseshoe-style, particularly later in the war. Packs might be dropped just before combat though a lightly stuffed pack worn in action was more common. The suspenders for the rifle cartridge belt were an integral part of the M1910 pack system. Note the leather-tipped, web-covered M1910 scabbard for his 16in M1905 bayonet.

A2: Private, 5th Division, April 1918

The first several AEF divisions spent months training with the weapons and tactics of trench warfare before they finally saw serious action in May 1918. This man wears one of several patterns of drab "overseas cap" used by the Americans in 1918. The "US" bronze collar disc was the regulation cap badge but branch discs were also to be seen (e.g., the infantry's crossed rifles). The drab wool uniforms used early in the war were a sort of dusty light brown. By the Armistice a variety of material, and a darker drab shade with a hint of green was becoming a common sight. This soldier's M1903 Springfield rifle has a modified French *tromblon* grenade discharger cup attached to the muzzle, and he has the US 11-pocket grenade vest slung across his body to hang over his left hip.

A3: Private, Corps of Engineers, March 1918

Working in shirtsleeve order, he wears the M1916 drab wool shirt – a pullover item, although the five-button front opening was deep – and the breeches of the M1912 uniform. These laced uncomfortably tight at the lower legs, but it would be the last months of the war before straight cut trousers appeared in limited numbers. Drab wool puttees were quickly adopted in lieu of canvas leggings as more appropriate to the mud of the trenches. The early AEF Divisions wore British helmets until the US M1917 copy became available in the summer of 1918. Engineer units working on bridges and railroads behind the British lines were (unintentionally) among the first AEF units to see combat. The bridge-building 6th Engineers, in particular, distinguished themselves fighting as a part of the British Gen Carey's scratch force on the Somme when the German Operation "Michael" crashed into the Allied front line in March 1918.

A4: Eagle button

This universal US eagle pattern was worn on all uniform bronze buttons as well as on the snap fasteners of the early web gear. A vegetable-based synthetic button in a milky brown color was also used on tunics late in the war.

A5: Officer's identity tag

These round aluminum "dogtags" were issued two per man, hung on a metal cable covered in cloth and worn around the



October 1918: the handsome and dashing BrigGen Douglas MacArthur (1880–1964) commanded 84th Bde in 42nd (NG) Div during the St Mihiel offensive in September, and rose to command the division in November. MacArthur was wounded twice during his time at the front; fearlessly, he and LtCol George S. Patton of the 1st Tank Bde stood chatting on a hillside at St Mihiel under artillery fire, while all around them men died for cover. Even in World War I MacArthur preferred a cavalier uniform style all his own: an officer's billed cap minus the stiffening wire, a woolen mackinaw and a civilian scarf, plus a riding crop or walking stick.

neck. Upon death, one disc was left with the body and the other was removed to unit headquarters for information purposes. The disc was stamped with the soldier's name, date of enlistment and "US Army" on one side, and his AEF serial number on the other. Officer's tags were stamped with their rank; this example also has the unit. By the end of the war the man's religion was also stamped on the disc (C, P or H for Catholic, Protestant or Hebrew). The earliest tags issued, in August 1917, were square; a disc-and-square pair appeared in February 1918, and two discs by mid 1918. Privately purchased engraved name bracelets were also worn; and some photo ID cards were used within the AEF, particularly by officers.

B1: Telephone operator, Signal Corps, 1918

Working at the army and corps level, these women auxiliaries ran significant portions of the telephone systems used by the AEF in France; fluent French was a requirement of service. The first operators purchased their dark blue wool

uniforms in New York, and they sported the crossed flags insignia of the US Army Signal Corps to which they were attached. A Norfolk-style winter long coat was also worn; in summer they wore a blue silk/cotton version of the uniform. For headgear they wore the blackened and fortified straw hat (see B2), though this blue wool overseas cap soon became favored wear. Known as "hello girls", when on duty they wore a white armband featuring a phone microphone; these came in three or four versions depending on the operator's "rank". This phone insignia was also modified and worn as a rank patch later in the war. By the Armistice the AEF had 42,000-plus civilian employees (both US and European) and volunteers working in France.

B2: Nursing, Army Nurse Corps, 1918

A small Army Nurse Corps predated the war but was rapidly expanded in 1917. Civilian groups such as the Red Cross also provided large numbers of nurses for the US hospitals in France. This Army nurse wears what was the standard uniform for US women in the AEF. Her collar insignia comprise subdued "US" devices ahead of ANC caduceus medical insignia; nurses enjoyed officer status though not rank, so her badges are of officer style – and note that unlike her friend she has a line of officer's braid above her jacket cuff. The uniform is completed by brown hightop "sensible shoes" and a black felt or straw hat. The most deadly adversary for AEF nurses was infection; in May 1918 influenza appeared in France and would prove especially deadly that October; world wide the influenza epidemic killed more people than the Great War, and more Americans in France died of it than fell in battle. Those with lungs scarred by gas were especially vulnerable.

B3: First Lieutenant, Army Air Service, 1918

US aviators first flew with the British, and some British gear was retained. An overseas cap inspired by the forage cap of the Royal Flying Corps was fashionable among some officers (including but not only aviators); this had a cutaway front to the turn-up flap revealing a small turned-up false peak, and two small buttons set vertically on the front of the flap. Otherwise this flyer on leave in Paris has the basic US Army officer's uniform, though he sports "aviator boots" and a cane. Originally a part of the Signal Corps, Army aviators wore the crossed flags of that branch on their collars, and the original Army pilot's "wings" featured an eagle and crossed flags; it was 1918 before aviators had their own wings-and-propeller branch insignia, and this pilot has not yet acquired them. He wears the Reserve officers' "USR" device at the front of the collar, and the Signal Corps flags behind, in line with the epaulettes; his silver bar of rank appears on the left front of his cap and at the end of the epaulettes. The wartime pilot's qualification badge worn on his left breast featured silver wings with a US crest in the center; it was made both in metal pinback and embroidered forms. The "Sam Browne" belt was universally recognized by all Allied armies as the mark of an officer, however unfamiliar his uniform might be; Gen Pershing approved of the military "brace" it gave to an officer's posture, and made it required wear in France.

In the air, US pilots wore French- or US-made leather and canvas coats and headgear; Spaulding was the leading US manufacturer of flying gear. One-piece French flying suits and thigh-length leather flight coats were common; these were usually lined with wool, corduroy or fur.



October 1918: two officers of the Pennsylvania 28th (NG) Div offer a fine contrast in uniforms. The brigadier general (left) wears the standard officer's tunic in a lighter, greener drab, with cuff trim and collar and epaulette insignia; he has both a leather Sam Browne and a web pistol belt with .45 automatic and two double magazine pouches, plus a mapcase and gasmask. The lieutenant colonel beside him wears a complete enlisted man's M1918 drab uniform of coarse wool, distinguished solely by his badges of rank on the epaulettes.

C1: Private, 3rd Division; Château-Thierry, June 1918

The rapid German advances of March to May 1918 led to several AEF divisions being released from the Allied Reserve. The 3rd and 2nd Divisions were sent to the Marne front defending the approaches to Paris to fill gaps in the French lines. Rushed in by truck, machine gunners of the 3rd Division were among the first to go into action at Château-Thierry. This rifleman wears standard AEF uniform and equipment apart from the British "Small Box Respirator" gasmask satchel high on his chest in the "ready position". The 3rd Division would earn the sobriquet "Rock of the Marne" for its unflinching defence of this sector, both in June and especially in July. The fighting at Château-Thierry and the nearby Belleau Wood by US troops was muddled together in reports in newspapers back in the States, and to this day the US Marines with the 2nd Division are often credited for much of the fighting. The main units of the 3rd Division were (5th Bde:) 4th & 7th Inf, 8th MG Bn; (6th Bde:) 30th & 38th Inf, 9th MG Bn; (div troops:) 7th MG Battalion.



November 1918: detail from a group photo of decorated Doughboys from the 6th Inf, 5th (Reg) Div; these two NCOs clearly show the effects of prolonged combat. Note that they carry .45 pistols as well as their rifles.

C2: Private, 5th Marines, 2nd Division; Belleau Wood, June 1918

US Marines were among the first American troops deployed to France and they played a large part in the early history of the AEF. The 5th and 6th Marines and 6th MG Bn formed the 4th Marine Bde of the AEF 2nd Division; this formation went into the trenches in April 1918, but the Marine contingent made its reputation by its bloody headlong assault on Belleau Wood in early June. Marines initially wore this distinctive forest green P1912/17 uniform (note large patch skirt pockets with pointed flaps); but due to the logistic difficulty of resupply after the wear and tear of combat it was soon switched for the available Army drab. Indeed, the typical veteran Marine would be seen wearing nondescript Army drab without collar discs; upon close examination, Marine issue buttons, red/green rank stripes or perhaps the Corps eagle, globe and anchor (EGA) insignia might be seen from time to time. Marines also used web gear with EGA button-style snaps in limited quantities. (See also MAA 327, *US Marine Corps in World War I, 1917-18*.)

C3: Private, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division; Belleau Wood, June 1918

The Army's 3rd Bde (9th & 23rd Infantry, 5th MG Bn) of the 2nd Division served alongside the USMC in the Belleau Wood sector and several companies were involved in the Marines' fight. Perhaps chastened by the heavy casualties suffered by the Marines, the Army took longer to plan the assault on the nearby town of Vaux, which went off like a training exercise and with few casualties. This soldier of the 3rd Brigade is armed with the controversial French CSRG M1915 Chauchat light machine gun or "automatic rifle". The bipod was often "lost" and gunners found it was usually best to hold the forward part of the weapon by cradling the magazine. Firing the "Shoo-shoo" with any reliability was

more an art than a science, but with nothing better to replace it the CSRG was found useful. The Chauchat magazine bag seen here was also popular as a Doughboy haversack. Machine gunners were issued the Colt M1911 .45in semi-automatic pistol as their personal weapon.

D1: Sergeant, 42nd Division; St Mihiel, September 1918

A squad leader in BrigGen Douglas MacArthur's 84th Bde (167th & 168th Inf, 151st MG Bn) from the 42nd (NG) "Rainbow" Division, which distinguished itself in the offensive which pinched out the St Mihiel salient. His uniform is standard issue; by this date the NCO chevrons were sometimes worn only on the right sleeve. His late war web gear has "lift the dot" fasteners, and these also identify his gasmask as the "Corrected English" model copied from the British Small Box Respirator. For trench clearing he carries the M1897/17 Winchester 12 gauge pump action shotgun, converted for military use by adding a muzzle lug for the M1917 bayonet. In the absence of any special carrier he has to stuff its shells into his rifle belt and pockets. The cardboard shell casings tended to swell in the damp of the trenches; before action veterans would try cycling any old shells through the gun to make sure they would feed properly. (In the last weeks of the war full brass cartridges became available.) On his hip is a brass-handled M1918 Mk 1 trench knife with 6in double edged blade.

D2: Private first class, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 1918

Much of the National Guard US Cavalry was converted to artillery or machine gun units in the USA during the war, but most of the Regular 2nd and 3rd Regiments did serve in France on horseback. While they saw little action, the 2nd did get into combat in 1918; troopers of the unit were the first to use the Browning Automatic Rifle that September, and Capt E.N.Harmon's squadron made a name for itself during the pursuit of the retreating Germans at the very end of the war. This cavalryman rides the brown leather M1904 McClellan saddle, not dramatically different from its Civil and Indian Wars forerunner. All ranks were armed with a pistol holstered with a special swivel extension at the right hip; the cavalryman's rifle now supplanted the saber on the left of the saddle. The straight bladed Patton saber's scabbard can just be seen on the offside of the horse – an awkward grab, but still carried. The cavalry in France wore both puttees and leather-reinforced canvas leggings. This Pfc wears the special round arm insignia of his newly instituted rank, a rare sight in the AEF; these varied with branch of service – here it is crossed sabers in light drab on a dark brown/drab disc.

D3: Sergeant, Military Police, 1918

The Military Police (MP) was not founded as a branch of the US Army until 1941; in World War I men detailed (sometimes permanently) from other units served under the direction of provost marshals of units or organizations. This NCO's overseas cap is worn pulled well down with the top gusset open, giving a very "Serbian" look; Doughboys soon learned to sew the top edges closed for the smarter "envelope" appearance of a sidecap. The dark blue duty brassard (armband) usually showed "MP" in white, but red letters were not unknown – nor was the wearing of round red cloth backing to the collar discs. He carries a .45cal revolver in a brown leather holster at his right hip; the three stacked web pouches at front left of his M1912 pistol belt held the M1917

revolver's three-round half-moon clips (a forerunner of today's "speed loading" devices for revolvers). Unusually, he wears his marksmanship badge; and has wound his puttees in cavalry style, from the knee downwards – note the tie tapes at the ankles. The "pancake" satchel holds the French M2 gasmask; this was retained as a back-up after issue of the box respirator type, but well behind the lines it is presumably preferred as handier than the SBR.

D4: National Army collar disc

This variant on the "US" device was issued late in the war to draftees when the distinction between Regular, National Guard and National Army became practically meaningless and "US" discs were universally issued.

E1: Private, 369th Infantry; Champagne, summer 1918

This black regiment consisted primarily of National Guardsmen from New York City ("Harlem Hellfighters"), theoretically part of the 93rd Division. The 369th-372nd Infantry in fact served as individual regiments exclusively with French Army divisions, where they were much appreciated for their aggressiveness; the 369th was awarded a French unit citation for distinguished combat service. For the ease of logistics, these units were armed with French weapons and issued French personal equipment; this man has the M1907/15 Berthier 8mm rifle, M1916 brown leather belt equipment, M1877 two-litre canteen covered with horizon-blue cloth, and – hidden here, but slung on his left hip – the light tan M1892 musette. The full face French ARS gasmask, carried here in its fluted brown-painted canister, was actually an improvement, since the British pattern AEF mask required the use of a nose clip which did not fit many African-Americans. French M1915 Adrian helmets were used in training early in 1918, but for the majority of that year the US "dishpan" was available. Unhappy with French rations, the black Doughboys nonetheless warmed to the daily wine issue. The AEF staff was unsure what to do with them after the Armistice; accordingly, they were among the first units to return home.

E2: First lieutenant, 370th Infantry; Champagne, 1918

The 93rd Division's 370th Infantry Regiment, formed on a black National Guard unit based in Chicago, Illinois, was almost entirely officered by black Americans; note the use of a black silk scarf at the throat. Junior officers usually tried to remain inconspicuous in combat, and the wearing of puttees and absence of the Sam Browne belt does lower his profile somewhat. The officer's tunic nevertheless shows the line of drab cuff braid, and the cut-out letters and branch device on the collar as opposed to the enlisted men's collar discs. Exact rank is shown by the dull silver bars on the epaulettes; the Great War pattern of lieutenant's bars were said to have an unsettling resemblance to miniature coffins. Second lieutenants wore officer's uniform but had no rank insignia until

the granting of their gold bar during 1918. This officer wears a mapcase, binoculars, and the web pistol belt with first aid and pistol clip pouches and holstered .45 automatic – the object just visible below the aid pouch is the tip of the holster with its leather tie-down thongs wrapped around it. The wearing of his gasmask bag slung on the hip strongly suggests that he is away from the front lines.

E3: Private, 32nd Division, 1918

Well over half the divisions of the AEF were armed with this M1917 rifle, particularly the National Army (draft) units. The 32nd Division was a National Guard formation with men primarily from Michigan and Wisconsin; its main units were (63rd Bde) 125th & 126th Inf, 120th MG Bn; (64th Bde) 127th & 128th Inf, 121st MG Bn; (div troops) 119th MG Bn. This National Guardsman has an M1917 steel hilt trench knife with the usual "knuckleduster" bow guard: in claustrophobic hand-to-hand fighting within the confines of a trench rifle and bayonet could at times prove unwieldy – Americans



A battalion runner, lightly equipped with pistol belt and gasmask, takes a break to down some crackers and "goldfish" (canned salmon). Note that he has removed the red left sleeve brassard that marked his status: it may have saved him from interference by officious NCOs and officers, but it also marked him out as a valuable target for enemy snipers. See Plate G3.

commonly used fighting knives close in, but short clubs, perhaps with the head wrapped in barbed wire, were also used. Besides the 100 rounds of 30-06 ammo carried in the ten-pocket cartridge belt, Doughboys carried (particularly in the attack) expendable cloth bandoleers carrying another 60 rounds; the tape around his right shoulder supports one of these under his left arm. Just visible is the typical pulling of the shirt collar up to ease the chafing of the rough tunic collar; Doughboys complained that the material was much coarser than that of other Allied armies.

F1: Private, Signal Corps, July 1918

Cotton versions of the wool uniform were usually worn Stateside during the hot American summer. The wool uniform was universally issued in France, but on occasion soldiers were seen wearing the khaki cotton tunic in the summer; July 1918 was a warm month, when AEF soldiers were noted fighting in their shirtsleeves. Note the wound chevron above this man's right cuff. As a specialist he wears pistol equipment rather than carrying a rifle. The two-piece M1910 mess kit (called "meat cans" by the Army QM) were found to be too shallow and an M1918 version with deeper dishes was soon issued. In a pinch, the dish could be used as an entrenching tool. The dishes and handle could be interconnected and balanced so as to be held in one hand. Messkits were sometimes artistically self-engraved with the user's name and unit, places been and battles fought. The "US"-stamped spoon and fork were tin-plated and the knife had an aluminum handle. Mess gear also included the M1916 bacon can and the double-ended M1910 condiment can.

F2: Private, 30th Division, July 1918

The 30th Division served in the British sector from July to November 1918 and – like the 4th, 27th, 28th & 33rd

Divisions – they used British small arms so as to ease supply problems. This Doughboy has the SMLE or "Smelly" – officially, Rifle No.1 Mk III – and its bayonet, but still wears American web equipment. His US tunic clearly needed replacing; he has been issued with a British "khaki" wool Service Dress tunic with brass buttons. American units with a strong Irish character disliked serving alongside the British. The Doughboys got on well with Australians, however, finding them somewhat kindred spirits and admiring their informality and aggressiveness. In turn, the Americans impressed the Australians as quick learners and "keen to have a go." The main units of the 30th Division were: (59th Bde) 117th & 118th Inf, 114th MG Bn; (60th Bde) 119th & 120th Inf, 115th MG Battalion.

F3: Sergeant, Medical Corps, 1918

Five aid men were authorized for each infantry company, and when a soldier was wounded he would usually call out for "First aid!" Medical personnel went unarmed, and wore a red cross armband as their notional protection, but no helmet markings were displayed in World War I. Besides a gasmask, front line medics carried one or more canteens and a pouch belt and/or haversack with field dressings and a few basic instruments. (Grenadiers also liked to get hold of the medical pouch belts, as they worked well for carrying grenades.) This sergeant wears his rank on his right sleeve on a patch incorporating his branch badge of the medical caduceus; such combination insignia were authorized for the technical branches of the Army, but NCOs wore plain stripes as often as not.

Other left arm bands commonly seen were blue brassards worn by Signal personnel and red ones displayed by runners: the purpose was to mark them as free to move about the divisional area on their various duties without being harassed by MPs and other NCOs or officers.

G1: Major General, 1918

A two-star general normally commanded a division. General officers were given wide latitude as to what they wore. Overseas caps piped in gold braid were common headgear. Trenchcoats in the British style were rapidly adopted as field replacements for the official drab wool double-breasted overcoat with the cuff rank trim. Various patterns of lace-up field boots were common among aviators and front line infantry officers alike. Binoculars and a walking stick also strongly suggest a senior officer. As generals arrived from the USA, Gen Pershing put them through a medical examination and personally took their measure; he was ruthless in re-assigning or dismissing officers who came up short of his expectations. Considering the number of old Regular and National Guard officers he received as divisional commanders, his concerns were probably justified.

G2: Staff Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery, 1918

A large number of lieutenant colonels served on divisional and higher staffs; battalions were also commanded by



September 1918: infantrymen of the 42nd (NG) Div wolf down captured German rations – the arrival of food and water was always uncertain for advancing troops, who welcomed any chance finds. The Doughboy in the foreground wears his helmet over his overseas cap, the issue raincoat as a "duster", and a French Army musette – perhaps for VB rifle grenades?

lieutenant colonels (or majors). This officer (who would be addressed as "Colonel") wears an overseas cap piped in the red branch colour of the Artillery and bearing his silver leaf rank badge. The officer's regulation double-breasted drab wool overcoat has ornate black cuff trim, the detail of the braid signifying his rank. These overcoats were preferred by many officers and worn not only behind the lines but in the trenches. Just visible above his left cuff is the small dull gold chevron denoting six months' service overseas; gold chevrons on the right cuff denoted a combat wound or gassing. (In 1932 the wound stripes were replaced with the new Purple Heart medal; but during World War II old soldiers might be seen still displaying the old cuff chevrons on their service tunics.) Staff officers sometimes wore colored armbands with embroidered symbols to show their positions; these became much more prevalent after the Armistice.

G3: Private, staff runner, 1918

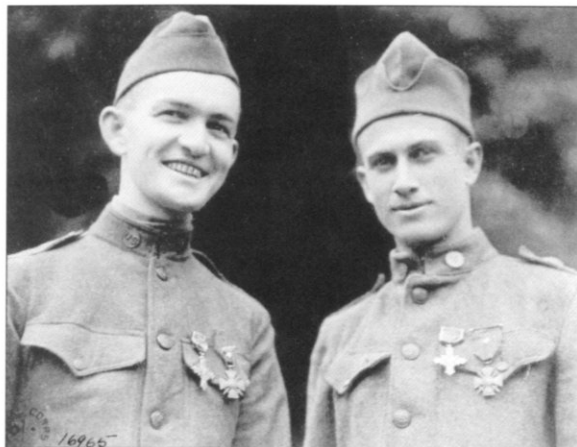
This soldier displays the regulation issue double-breasted drab wool enlisted men's overcoat. Nothing else, apart from his presence with this group of officers, marks him as a runner: he should wear a scarlet brassard around his left upper sleeve, but as they neared the front lines runners sometimes removed the armband to make themselves less conspicuous. In some ways the job was considered a good one, as they were released from the daily unit drills and full time service in the front line trenches, and when not needed they could live "the life of Reilly." But when they were on duty runners often had to move through artillery fire and seek out exposed forward positions; in open ground they were easy to pick out and became priority targets. If a runner did become a casualty, the telltale red armband also showed that he was worth searching for undelivered messages. (Incidentally, most Doughboys received a \$10,000 life insurance policy while serving in the Army; this generated a lot of gallows humor joking about "mother receiving a war bonus".) Officers were not usually authorized a servant, but by private arrangement a runner often filled the bill as an officer's "dog-robber".

H1: Private first class, BAR gunner, 79th Division; October 1918

The 79th was the first division to receive the Browning Automatic Rifle, in July/August 1918. The newer divisions tended to receive the "light Browning" before the veteran formations; typically, the 2nd Division did not get BARs and Colt M1917 machine guns to replace the French Chauchat and Hotchkiss until just after the Armistice. This veteran, wearing a year's service stripes on his left cuff and a wound stripe on his right, wears the gunner's belt for the Browning. His .45 pistol with two-magazine pouch is worn on the right of this rig, while the four large pouches around the rest of the belt hold pairs of 20-round magazines. The cup on the right hip is for holding the BAR's butt during advancing or "walking fire"; it was judged to be superfluous and was later removed in favor of another ammo pouch. As with the Chauchat, one or two men would be assigned to stay with the BAR gunner and carry additional ammunition. The main units of the 79th Division were: (157th Bde) 313th & 314th Inf, 311th MG Bn; (158th Bde) 315th & 316th Inf, 312th MG Bn; (div troops) 310th MG Battalion.

H2: Private, 5th Division; November 1918

This Doughboy is rigged out for the winter advances into the



May 1918: two Medical Corps soldiers just awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre – the right hand man has the early overseas cap based on French and Belgian models. The French usually presented the Croix de Guerre in some numbers to American units fighting alongside them; individual awards would then be made by local US commanders, and Doughboys who received the DSC would usually get the Croix at the same time. The Croix was awarded in the French Army for a mention in despatches: the ribbon bore a bronze palm branch for mentions in army despatches, a gilt star for corps despatches, and a silver star for unit despatches. The left hand soldier has thus apparently been awarded the Croix for the second time.

woods of the Meuse-Argonne sector; his gasmask slung on his hip suggests that he is very much in reserve at the moment. The heavy wool overcoat was both cut short by the troops and later manufactured shorter, since long skirts gathered mud and water and added significantly to the weight. He carries an extra bandoleer of ammunition, and has acquired a sturdy Chauchat magazine bag as a personal haversack. A grenade or two might be carried either in a pocket or in the bag. Though most divisions had shoulder patches authorized before the Armistice they were rarely seen being worn; the 5th Division's simple red diamond seems to have been an exception. No doubt many patches were hand-cut rather than issued. The division's main units were: (9th Bde) 60th & 61st Inf, 14th MG Bn; (10th Bde) 6th & 11th Inf, 15th MG Bn; (div troops) 13th MG Battalion. By Armistice Day the division had been in combat for five months; they suffered 1,908 killed and 7,975 wounded.

H3: Corporal, 3rd Division; January 1919

By early 1919 some Americans were settled into garrisons in Germany, but the vast majority were impatiently waiting to go home. This 3rd Division veteran's greenish-tinged drab uniform is fully adorned with wound and overseas service cuff chevrons, the new divisional shoulder patch (light khaki stripes on blue), and medals. The latter are two gallantry decorations – the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre; and the Victory Medal with six slides representing six separate campaigns or battles. Units in Germany and the USA involved in victory parades had the unit patch painted onto the front of their helmets.

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