

CONTROVERSY STILL ON BETWEEN MEMBERS OF HEROIC BAND OF SOLDIERS IN ARGONNE FIGHT

As They Were that Day in the Argonne and as They Are Now

ELEVEN YEARS AFTER WAR FINDS MEMBERS IN DIFFERENT JOBS

Still Can't Understand Why Sergeant Yorke Got All the Credit for Winning.

YORKE KILLED 28

Official Washington Seems to Incline to View that Yorke Did a Lot.

By ROBERT TALLEY

"It was like this—" says ex-Private George W. Willis who lives with his wife and two boys in a little frame house near the city dumps in South Philadelphia and has a job as a teamster, driving a feed wagon from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m. every day except Sunday.

"It was like this," he repeats, "all us fellows made the capture and should be credited alike, but Sergeant Yorke seems to have got all the glory."

But listen to ex-Sergeant Harry M. Parsons, now the owner and manager of an auto accessory store in Brooklyn, N. Y., whose order sent Yorke and his handful of companions into one of the hottest engagements in the World War.

"Alvin York" deserves every bit of the credit given him," says ex-Sergeant Parsons. "His was the greatest achievement in the war."

Controversy Still On

This Armistice Day, 11 years after the conflict ended, the controversy is still on. Official Washington seems to incline to ex-Sergeant Parsons' view, but the boys who went through hell with Sergeant York on that historic day in the Argonne forest and have long since gone back to civilian jobs take pretty much the same view as ex-Private Willis.

But let's see what they did then—and what they are doing today.

It is October 8, '99, on Hill 223 in the Argonne sector near Chateau-Cherry. German machine guns high up on the slope are raining death on the Americans and Sergeant Harry M. Parsons, of Company C, 328 Infantry, orders Acting Sergeant Bernard Early to take two squads and put the enemy machine guns out of action. Early takes 16 men, including Corporal Alvin C. York, and advances steadily through the dense woods and crosses the hill via an old trench. Suddenly, they find they are behind the German lines.

A moment later they run smack into 25 or 30 Germans, including a major and several other officers, grouped beside the little stream. Despite his hazardous position and the disparity in numbers, Sergeant Early decides to attack and the Americans open fire. Some shots are returned but most of the Germans, believing they are surrounded by a large force, yell "Kamarad!" and surrender with upraised hands. The Americans surround them at the point of bayonets.

Early, Merrithew Muzzi Shot Suddenly the German machine gunners on the hill realize what has happened, reverse their guns and open fire. Hell breaks loose. Germans and Americans alike drop flat on their bellies. In the first blast of fire, six Americans are killed outright, literally shot to pieces.

Sergeant Early gets a bullet through his body and two other wounds; three bullets rip through Corporal Ota B. Merrithew's arm; Private Mario Muzzi gets it in the shoulder.

With six of the detachment killed and three others wounded, including both of the other non-commissioned officers, Corporal York takes command. With him are seven men: Privates George W. Willis, Michael A. Sacina, Patrick Donahue, Thomas G. Johnson,



Eight Germans suddenly charged and York shot them down one by one in quick succession as they lunged toward him. . . . His 28 bullets had killed 28 men. . . . Sergeant Early, Corporal Merrithew and Private Muzzi were wounded. . . . Privates Donahue, Sacina, Willis, Sok, Johnson, Beardsley and Konotaki were guarding the huddled German prisoners. . . . The six others were dead; Private Dymowski's body sprawled beside York, face downward in the dirt and leaves.

Feodor Sok, Joe Konotaki and Perky Beardsley.

The seven privates are busy guarding the 30 prisoners, all huddled on the ground for protection, and are shelled by them from the German fire. "That is all that saves them."

Lying on his belly with his dead and wounded companions scattered around him, Corporal York begins picking off the German machine gunners on the hillside with his rifle. Countless streams of machine gun bullets miss him, as if by a miracle. In a momentary lull, he yells to them to come down and surrender. The answer is a headlong charge by eight Germans. York, shooting as straight and as coolly as he shot squirrels in his native Tennessee, a mountain, shoot them down one by one in quick succession as they lunge for him.

York Killed 28 Germans

York has fired exactly 28 shots—and 28 Germans are dead.

"Don't shoot any more, I'll order them to surrender and throw down their arms," says the German major. Surrender they do and so Corporal York and his little band march back to the American lines with 132 captives. Privates Beardsley, Konotaki, Sok, Willis and Sacina march beside them, bayonets ready. Bringing up the rear is the badly wounded Corporal Merrithew, leaning heavily on Private Donahue. Sergeant Early is supported by another comrade. Private Muzzi, despite his bleeding shoulder, is able to walk unassisted.

Eleven years have brought a lot of changes for those men who went through hell with Sergeant York that day. York, himself, is living quietly on his Tennessee farm that the grateful people of his state bought for him.

Sergeant Early is now married and has two children, Charles and Bernard, Jr. He lives in New Haven, Conn., and operates a small restaurant. He waits on the tables while his pal does the cooking.

For what he did that day, Early spent five months in a hospital. Just the other day—11 years, less three days after his heroic exploit—the government awarded him the D. S. C. Ex-cept for York, who also holds the Congressional Medal of Honor, Early is the only one so decorated. Four of the others got brigade citations for gallantry—but that was all.

Merrithew is Truck Driver Corporal Merrithew lives at Brook-

line, Mass., and has a job at driving a truck for the state highway department. Two little daughters brighten his home, Jeanne, 17 months, and Anna, 5—and he values them more than he does his one good lung. "Gee, if you must know," he enlisted and served under the name of William B. Cutting—a name he adopted when he ran away from home as a boy—and is so identified in Sergeant York's book.

Private Muzzi's old wound in his shoulder doesn't interfere with his job as a baker at the National Biscuit Company in New York City, although it cost him two months in the hospital back in 1918.

Private Beardsley has gone back to his father's farm near Roxbury, Conn. He is the son of "Nate Beardsley, a champion breeder of Devonshire cattle. He has never married.

Private Konotaki is a mill worker at Holyoke, Mass., and has two children. Not long ago when the War Department planned to reenact the York episode in a military spectacle at Washington, they were supposed to send an airplane to bring him in. Escorted by the local American Legion post and chamber of commerce, Konotaki tramped out to the airport to take off. But somebody in Washington forgot to send the plane; after waiting four hours, Konotaki and his escort gave up in disgust and went home.

The whereabouts of Private Sok is unknown. The War Department re-

ports his address as 6 Barnes street, Ashley, Penn., but inquiry there brought no answer. The same applies to Private Johnson, last reported as living at 414 Ninth street, Denison, Tex.

Sacina Hat Checker Private Sacina, born in Italy and reared in New York, was working at a wire spring factory there when he was drafted in 1917. He told a reporter the other day that since his return from the army he has had very bad luck, being out of a job quite often. He is a very small man. Recently he applied for a job as a subway guard and was turned down because he was too short; the employment agent didn't think him big enough to handle the rush hour crowds. Just now he has the coat and hat checking concession in a New York barber shop.

Private Donahue is a mill worker in Lawrence, Mass., but has had the misfortune to be out of a job recently. He is unmarried.

Private Willis, already mentioned, drives his feed wagon in South Philadelphia every day and not even his customers know that he is a war hero. He's had a lot of hard luck, too.

Parsons' Store Success Sergeant Parsons, who ordered Acting Sergeant Early to take the two squads and put the German machine guns out of action and who is pretty much of a war hero, himself is making a success of his auto, accessory



Here they are as they are today, 11 years after: No. 1, Private Patrick Donahue; No. 2, Corporal Otis B. Merrithew and his family; No. 3, Private Mario Muzzi; No. 4, Private George W. Willis; No. 5, Private Michael Sacina; No. 6, Sergeant Bernard Early and Mrs. Early; No. 7, Sergeant Harry M. Parsons.

store in Brooklyn. He was the first to see York and his little band come trooping back to the American lines with their 132 prisoners—and could hardly believe his eyes.

And what about the other members of the York party, the six who "went west," as the doughboys used to say? They were Corporal Murray Savage, Privates Maryan E. Dymowski, Ralph E. Weller, Fred Wareing, William Wine and Carl Swanson.

The hill that was stained with their blood became their monument. They buried them where they fell.

Two Men Are Arrested Following Three Sunday Holdups at Falls

Frank Supple and Walter Stricker Accused of Robbing Thomas Clinch of \$25 After Attacking Him in Alley Off 24th Street.

Three holdups and robberies were reported to police early yesterday. Soon after the report of one of the holdups had been received Acting Detectives Martin Conside and Robert Fitzsimmons arrested two young men and held them for arraignment before Police Justice William J. Watts in connection with the holdup.

The men who reported the holdups and robberies are Thomas Clinch, 551 Twenty-fourth street; Mataline Silvester, 1023 Fifteenth street and William Gudman, 145 Eleventh street.

Clinch said he was attacked by two men in an alley near 210 Twenty-fourth street and that the men stole \$25 from him. In the tussle with the men Clinch lost his false teeth, which he dropped from his mouth. The teeth

were found a short time later by Patrolman William Hogan, who returned them to Clinch.

Silvester was held up at Walnut avenue and Nineteenth street by two men who took \$17 from him. He could give no descriptions of the robbers. Gudman fell prey to a negro highwayman in Twelfth street near Buffalo avenue.

The lone bandit took \$4 from him, he told police. Gudman said the bandit was about 30 years old, five feet, ten inches tall, weighed 180 pounds and wore a blue suit and a light cap.

The two men held on robbery charges were arrested in connection with the hold-up and robbery of Clinch. They are Frank Supple, 19, Massachusetts avenue, and Walter Stricker, 20, East Falls street. Clinch is reported to have identified them.

None but Physician Can Tell if Child Is Normal, Fishbein Says

Necessary First to Determine the Capacity of the Child Physically and Mentally to Find if It Falls Within Limits of Normalcy.

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

The average parent is not so much interested in the unusual child as in his own, which means to say that the vast majority of children come within the group known as normal.

However, there is seldom a normal child who is perfect. Investigations made of applicants for the army during the World War indicated that a high percentage had all sorts of minor disturbances, varying from flat feet and enlarged tonsils to defects of the heart action and of the abdominal organs.

Besides the factors known as physical factors, there are the mental traits of the child. The term "insanity" has practically disappeared from the considerations of experts in mental disease by their recognition of degrees of mental capacity from complete idiocy or imbecility to the extraordinary eccentricities associated not infrequently with great geniuses.

Before one can be certain that the child is a normal child, it is necessary to find the capacity of the child physically and mentally and to find whether it falls within the limits that are generally considered normal. This means that the normal child is one like most other children.

In order to find out whether a child is normal physically, it is necessary to consult a competent physician and he can make his decision only on the basis of a physical examination.

The examination of the mind does not necessarily require a specialist in diseases of the mind. It is possible for teachers who have had some training in the examination of children, for physicians who have some knowledge of psychology, and particularly for psychologists to determine whether or not the reaction of the child's mind are normal or abnormal.

ffective, it may be necessary to consult a psychiatrist to determine the nature of the mental defect or disturbance.

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Ebertha Depot Will Be Closed as an Agency Station, Commission Rules.
The New York Central railroad has been granted permission to discontinue its Ebertha station, between Ransomville and Wilson on the R. W. and O. line, as an agency station, providing the station is kept open when trains are due. The application was granted by the Public Service commission at Albany, according to a dispatch.
Total revenues derived by the rail-

road from the station for the year ending March 31, 1929, were less than the cost of maintaining it, the commission found.
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