

AEF IN BRITAIN, WWI

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

In contrast to WWII, the 1917-18 U.S. presence in England was much less extensive. Although the American Expeditionary Forces established its ground unit training areas in France, some U. S. Air Service personnel received training in England. Mainly, the AEF passed through England.

Although nearly half of the AEF units disembarked at English ports, chiefly Liverpool, they quickly continued on to English Channel ports for passage to France. At least four U.S. divisions stayed long enough in England to establish division headquarters: the 32d, 35th and 81st Div at Winchester, near Wiltshire, and the 78th Division at Folkstone. See:

Hoyt, Charles B. Heroes of the Argonne: An Authentic History of the Thirty-Fifth Division.
Kansas City, MO: Hudson, 1919. pp. 25-27. #05-35.1919/2.

Maurer, Maurer, ed. The U.S. Service in World War I. Vol. I. Wash, DC: Office, History, 1978. p. 85.
D606U54v1.

Meehan, Thomas P. History of the Seventy-Eighth Division in the World War, 1917-18-19. NY:
Dodd, Mead, 1921. pp. 28, 37 & 39. #05-78.1921.

U.S. Army. Amer Exped Forces. Services of Supply. "Some Accomplishments of the Services of
Supply." Report, 1919. Maps 11, 20 & 106. D570.75A5.

U.S. Army War College. Hist Sec. Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World
War: American Expeditionary Forces, Divisions. Wash, DC: GPO, 1931. 451 p. Ref.

Wilgus, William J. Transporting the A.E.F. in Western Europe, 1917-19. NY: Columbia, 1931.
pp. 453-55. D570.72W5.

NOTE: ROYAL GREETINGS TO AMERICAN DOUGHBOYS

King George provided US soldiers in England with many thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of welcome letters. In Vol. XVI of the New York Times Current History: The European War (NY: NY Times, 1918; D501N4v16), pp. 69-70, it is reported that an entire regiment of U.S. troops received copies of the King's message on 11 May 1918, after parading in London and being reviewed by His Royal Majesty. Furthermore, the compiler of An Illustrated History of the 71st Artillery, C.A.C. (Indianapolis: Burford, 1920; #203-71CA.1920), p. 10, relates that while at an

English rest camp in August 1918, "every officer and enlisted man was presented with a letter of welcome from King George."

Several copies of the welcoming letters repose in our Archives and were received by enlisted men of various units. (Henry Cook Coll and David Hefflefinger File, 61st Inf., World War I Survey.) These letters are not original, handwritten manuscripts; instead, they are the products of a printing technique that produced facsimile letters.

It is unknown if every soldier in the A.E.F. received this welcome letter. From the examples cited above, it may be reasonably inferred that the royal message was widely distributed, probably to the American forces which debarked at British ports and spent varying periods of time in training and awaiting cross-channel transportation to France. Half of the A.E.F., nearly a million soldiers, passed through Great Britain in this manner. See:

Ayres, Leonard P. The War with Germany: A Statistical Summary. Wash: GPO, 1919. p. 40.
D570.1A5.1919a.

U.S. Army. 325th Inf Rgt. Story of the 325th. Bordeaux, Fr, n.d. pp. 9-14. #603-325.1919.

Wilgus, William J. Transporting the A.E.F. in Western Europe 1917-19. NY: Columbia, 1931.
pp. 453-55. D570.72W5.