

April, 1918

GOLD SERVICE CHEVRONS FOR ALL A. E. F. MEN

Washington Gives Coveted
Decoration to Z. of A.

and S. O. S. Alike

ONE FOR EACH HALF YEAR

Stripe of Blue Cloth for Fraction
of Six Months in Theater
of Operations

MUST SHOW RIGHT TO WEAR IT

Company and Higher Unit Command-
ers Will Certify to Every Claim
for Sleeve Insignia

The great A.E.F. service chevrons controversy has been settled.

It started on February 22, when THE STARS AND STRIPES announced that Washington had authorized a gold service chevron to be worn by each officer and enlisted man of the A.E.F. who has served six months in the Zone of the Advance, and an additional chevron to be worn for each six months of service thereafter.

Loud echoes of the controversy reached back home, and now Washington has definitely prescribed the gold service chevron to be worn by every member of the A.E.F., one for each six months of service in the Theater of Operations.

In this connection, the term "Theater of Operations" is defined in the Army Field Service Regulations, 1914, as corrected to April 13, 1917.

What "Theater of Operations" Is

"In time of war," says the Regulations, "the activities of the military establishment embrace (a) the Service of

the Interior; (b) the Service of the Theater of Operations. The Service of the Theater of Operations is carried on by the commander of the field forces. The Theater of Operations is divided into two zones: (a) the Zone of the Line of Communications; (b) the Zone of the Advance."

So—any member of the A.E.F. serving six months in France or England, or in both countries combined, whether in the Z. of A. or in the S.O.S. (the new name for our L. of C.) is entitled to sport the gold service chevron.

It has also been definitely decided by Washington that any member of the A.E.F. leaving the Theater of Operations prior to completing six months' service therein will be entitled to wear a blue cloth chevron as a mark of such service in the Theater of Operations.

Thus, any member of the A.E.F. invalided to America before completing six months of service in France may display a blue cloth chevron to all beholders—male and female—as he takes his first at-home stroll up Fifth Avenue, New York, around four o'clock on a sunny afternoon.

Men With A. E. F. Eligible

Members of the A.E.F. serving with units of other armies—for example, American hospital units with the British forces—are eligible for the service chevron under exactly the same conditions governing every other soldier in the A.E.F.

Whether army field clerks will be entitled to wear the chevron is still to be determined. At present, service to owner in the wearing of the chevron must be service as an officer or enlisted man in the A.E.F.

Company and other higher unit commanders will determine what officers and men of their command are entitled to wear the chevron and so announce in orders from time to time. Any individual officer or enlisted man not provided for in this manner may forward to G.H.Q., A. E. F., through military channels, a request for permission to wear the chevron, this request to contain details as to service. In no case will the chevron be worn without the requisite authority having been given by the proper commander.

Requests for the issue or purchase of the chevron will be accompanied by a list of persons for whom it is desired, for the information of the commanding officer who authorizes the issue. The officer, before approving a request for issue or purchase, will verify the right of the persons concerned to wear the chevron.