VERDUN—Then and Now

The backwash of the second World War has flowed into the old Plaza d’Armes in Verdun. A few days ago, the French infantry began recapturing Verdun from the Germans. This is a scene of the old battlefields of the French Army.

Old Magazine Articles
ammunition out of the mouth of the tunnel and spread their bunkers neatly on the floor. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Salter of Atlanta, Ga., found farther back and put into working condition, and an electric light which had been in the air is now in the ground. The tunnel is clearly visible from a distance.

The Germans used Douaumont as an observation post, and Hornbeck and Kister have been inspecting the tunnels through which the Germans would send urgent messages to headquarters. The tunnels are constructed by the French engineers on the superstructure of the fort. The building is now suitably decorated, and the French authorities have presented a banner to the town as a memento of the fort's past.

Hornbeck and Kister have also been examining the old fort for its historical significance. They have found that the fort has been used for various purposes throughout its history, including as a prison and a fortress. The fort was used by the Nazis during World War II, and afterwards it was turned over to the French government for use as a military supply depot.

In an isolated, blocked-off section of the fort, Kister discovered a human skeleton in the gray earth. He found a powder keg and a bullet casing, remnants of the battles that were fought there. The skeleton was found near a gun emplacement that had once been used by the Germans.

Kister has collected dozens of souvenirs from the fort, including a piece of the wall that once housed the gun emplacement. He now spends his evenings working on a ring for his girlfriend, made out of the copper band of a British army officer's uniform. He would like to see the Old Woman again, but he knows that it will not be possible.

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The officer's quarters are furnished with a bed, a desk, and a chair, and they have a view of the valley below.

The only addition to the 1918 security set-up is a handrail erected by the engineer, Sgt. Frank Rosenthal. He has built a bridge, which is necessary because Cpl. Jack Moore of Bluefield, W. Va., the corporal of the guard, fell into the moat while trying to climb the guardpost. The guardpost is built on the bridge, and it is a sight to see. The Bridge of Leaflets, W. Va., is the corps of the guard, and it is a sight to see. The Bridge of Leaflets, W. Va., is the corps of the guard, and it is a sight to see.

Cut into the stone above the archway entrance to the fort is an illegible inscription, probably in Latin. Below this inscription, Sgt. Frank Rosenthal of Huntington, W. Va., has posted another sign, which says simply, "Our Home."
defense took place in 1918; the Germans who gained a footing in the ruins of the superstructure were only able to drive the French out of the casemates by lowering baskets of grenades with time fuses and spurring in liquid fire and napalm gas. In the northeast casemate where all this took place, the walls are covered with scrawled names, home towns, and dates. Eric Deutsch, Dusseldorf, 1918; Francois Rozier, Paris, 1917; Lucien Olivier, Lille, 1939. Now there are names like Karl Schreiber, Koenigberg, 1942, and Paul Martz, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 1944.

The American names are big and black and seem to blot out the others. One of them says: "Austin White, Chicago, Ill., 1918 and 1944. This is the last time I want to write my name here."