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A Giant 14-Inch U. S. Naval Gun, Manned by American Jackies, Pounding Away at Fritz at Several Miles' Range.

John J. Pershing declared in commending the officers and soldiers of the line of the American Army. "Their deeds are immortal, and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country."

This simple tribute to the brave American lads who fought and died in France is indicative of America's reverence for her heroic armies. Their glory and fame will always live by the side of the deeds of their forbears in previous wars.

In May, 1917, shortly after war was declared, General Pershing, well-known for his punitive expedition into Mexico, was selected by the War Department to command the American Expeditionary Forces that were to go to France. After gathering about him a small staff the General set sail. His reception in both England and France was only equalled by the readiness of the commanders of both armies to co-operate with the United States in the prosecution of the war, according to the General's own report.

His general staff was organized in a short time and detailed plans worked out for the organization and training of the millions of American soldiers who were expected in France to help finish the Hun. Training areas, designed to give the final seasoning to fresh troops arriving from the States before their entry into the front lines, and officers schools for the various arms of the service were established.

Extensive construction provided vast warehouses, supply depots, munition storehouses, and the like for the huge task ahead. Although France offered much in the way of both ordnance and quartermaster property for use by the American Army, still enormous quantities of materials of all kinds had to be brought across the Atlantic.

Flocking into the Army from civil life were thousands of professional and business men with splendid talent along the lines needed to build up this immense service of supply that was to keep the A. E. F. in action. To meet the shortage of supplies due to lack of shipping, representatives of the various supply departments were constantly in search of supplies and materials in Europe. A general purchasing agency was pro-