

The Stars and Stripes

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1918.

A.E.F. MUST GROW LINGO OF ITS OWN

Men Have Already Taken Words From Tommy and Poilu

SHOP TALK IN EACH BRANCH

Infantryman, Engineer, Redleg, Marine, Each Speaks Indi- vidual Language

Has the A.E.F. in France a language of its own? That is, has it developed its slang to such an extent that an outsider would find it hard to understand a typical section of A.E.F. talk? Has its experience in France added to its already large stock of short cuts in language, or does it still employ the old slang of the Army and the slang of the parts of the States from which it hailed?

These are hard questions to answer, and we would like the help of our readers in answering them; for we have been asked them time and again. For our own part, we find that for all usual conversational purposes, the men of the A.E.F. continue to use the "plain United States" as it grows in their particular home town portions of that beautiful region. What purely "Army stuff" they use has been handed on to them by the grizzled old veterans who took part in the 1916 tour of border duty.

"Get by," "get away with it," "bull," "bull-con," "beefing"—all the good old phrases are heard on every hand as one walks through an Adrian barrack building or back of a company as it stands at rest. Occasionally one hears a little Mex talk—a man referred