

LONG PANTS HERE FOR HALF OF ARMY; LEGGINS TO STAY

No More Knee Breeches to Be Sent to France from States

It has been officially decided that the A.E.F. has grown up and must put on long pants.

Old Papa Quartermaster has announced that the knee breeches of its childhood days are to be cast aside forever and so from now on, when little Johnny Doughboy goes to his Supply Sergeant for a new pair of trou, it is fifty-fifty that he will draw, perhaps for the first time in his military life, a pair of long O.D.'s.

One million seven hundred and thirty-three thousand pairs of O.D. pantaloons are now on hand in the A.E.F. approximately one reserve pair for every member of the A.E.F. Half of these are long-boys, cut "English" like the old U.S. Army before-the-war issue. No more knee breeches are coming from the States. All future imports of limb coverings will be of the full-length variety.

Nineteen Cents More Per Leg

To supply the A.E.F. until August, 2,500,000 pairs of pants have been ordered, and these, which will cost only nineteen cents a leg more than the breeches did, will be of better quality than the latter. Despite the increase in length there is only an eight of a yard more cloth involved, for the absence of the swagger flare, the flap and the tongue saves material, and the simple cut saves work.

A quantity of the old timers will probably be held to keep the Army of Occupation "as he were," but the rest of the A.E.F., according to a plan formulated a year ago, will wear 'em longer, although they won't have to wear 'em as long. Experts have decided that the breeches legs shrink when wet and impede the circulation, and it is assured that the kind he used to wear in civilian life will not cause the doughboy cold feet while he is waiting for the boat.

The orders say that leggins will still be worn, anyway, but the Marines wore 'em that way in Belleau Wood, so it can be done.

Mounted Troops Stand Pat

The issuance of the long trousers is authorized in G.O. 28, G.H.Q., just issued. Members of mounted organizations, say the order, will continue to wear breeches and to draw them. The order also provides that all breeches now in possession of troops will be retained by them until no longer serviceable.

Information from the office of the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F. last May disclosed that the long trouser epoch was eventually to dawn, though no time was then set for sunrise. Soon after that, also, business picked up to such an extent on the front that any kind of trousers went, all formalities being suppressed until the unbidden Boche guest had had it finally impressed upon him that his presence was unwelcome in those parts.