

UNDER THE CROSS AND TRIANGLE

Private GEORGE RYDER

TALIESIN W. DAVIES, Y. M. C. A. Secretary

SABBATH AND SOLDIER

SUNDAY SHOULD HAVE GREAT EFFECT ON MORALE.

No doubt the Puritans were wrong in their interpretation of the Sabbath and so were the Pharisees. The Pharisees were concerned with an institution; the Puritans, with a doctrinal God. The Pharisaic emphasis was upon the ceremonial; the Puritan interests were theological.

To day we are more concerned with man; we are humanitarian in our tendencies. To the Pharisee the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," seemed distinctly to invite exaltation of the Day. To the Puritan the sovereignty of God in all things was the fundamental dogma, and all things were imperfect by this particular dogma.

But in Jesus' discussion of the Sabbath the emphasis is placed upon the human side of things: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

It would seem that the Lord's Day might be of much significance to the soldier from the viewpoint of morale. Morale has physical, mental, moral and religious sources, and the Sabbath can minister to the soldier along all these lines. History has conclusively proved the need of one day's rest in seven. The failure of France to change the proportion of rest days to working days is well known.

The bearing of a fit physical condition upon the soldier's life is so obvious that it need not be dwelt upon.

Sunday furnishes an opportunity for the soldier to feed his mind in pastures new. A man should not allow his mind to run to seed because he is in the army. A great aid to morale is for the soldier to be utterly in sympathy with the cause for which he is fighting. Some reading in history and diplomacy becomes necessary. The masses of the soldiers turn to the "love story," but surely morale can be weakened by over-doses of the romantic novelists. Too much stress upon the war or upon the life left will be unfortunate. A scientific study or some philosophy will be an antidote for some; but for the majority humor will be best. Butler's "Pigs Is Pigs," Tarkington's "Seventeen," or a volume of Mark Twain, are invaluable in the maintenance of morale.

Religion has a vital place in the making of the ideal soldier. There were never any better fighters than Cromwell's psalm-singing and playing men. It is not alone the religious soldier's belief in a future life that gives him the advantage, though that does give poise and purpose to the soldier; but the feeling that one is allied with the great forces that make for righteousness in the universe and the conviction that these forces are not im-

personal but have their being in a Supreme One, gives stoutness and steadiness to a man.

The Sabbath Day gives to the soldier an opportunity to cultivate in quietness his grip upon these great, invisible, spiritual forces and their Controller. The greater one's confidence in this Spiritual Person and in his power, the better the soldier's morale. One can fight and one can die for a person much better than for a set of ideas or a philosophical statement. To be in touch with the Almighty God whose purposes are working out in our universe, is the privilege that the Sabbath offers. One can do this any day, but not quite so easily as on the Sabbath; and one can do it alone to a certain extent; but, from the viewpoint of *esprit de corps*, it is better to worship God in assemblies so that many minds shall think the same great thoughts together and many hearts feel the same surges of exalted fervor.

The point is that this business of soldiering is so difficult a thing that it requires the whole of a man to do it well. A man who merely gives his body to the task never amounts to much; a man who gives his mind also does get somewhere with it; but only the man whose whole spiritual nature is in the process attains the ideal. And the Sabbath Day furnishes opportunity for the development and maintenance of that whole manhood without which the soldier will always be an incomplete soldier.

AMUSE K. OF Cs.

An entertainment of a pleasing nature was given last Tuesday evening in Building No. 2. Among the features were solos by Miss Blanch Manning; a negro mammy recitation over the phone by Miss Rosalie Jones, both of the city, comedian stunts by Sergeant Taylor; singing and playing by Private Tronclone, tenor solo by P. P. Sponnelli, and a bass solo by H. Ruff.

REAL ICE WATER.

The government has placed water in the "Y" building, for which all the men are devoutly thankful. One cannot help being thirsty these hot days, and the fountain in the "Y" will serve many men. The water comes into the tank through a pipe which is coiled at the bottom of the tank and on which ice is kept. The ice has no contact with the water itself.

"Y" NOTES.

A very effective government four-reel moving picture, called "Fit to Fight," was exhibited at the "Y" last week. The detachment men were detailed to come and see this picture, which very vividly sets forth some well-established principles of living.

VARIED PROGRAM

SONGS AND SWATS MAKE UP FINE ENTERTAINMENT.

One of the most enjoyable and varied stunt night programs yet given at the base hospital Y. M. C. A. building was staged Tuesday night. Athletics, the singing of solos, and a number of monologs were included in the program. "Elder Cobo" Gray, of the Y. M. C. A., than whom there is no better entertainer at the camp, led off with an address on "Do Married Men Make the Best Husbands" provoked a storm of applause. This was followed by a number of humorous songs by Mr. Gray, who is the social secretary of the army Y. M. C. A. at Camp Greene.

Several boxing and wrestling bouts followed, all which were followed with interest. Private Clarence Kremer, of the base hospital, boxed for two rounds with Corporal Arthur Schweber. The next event was a wrestling bout between Sergt. Hagi and Private Maranow, both of the base hospital. Baranow was the heavier man of the two, but he was highly entertained by his opponent.

A blind-fold boxing bout between Private J. A. Turner and Private Vincent Dradi was ridiculous, and the onlookers were unroariously appreciative. The concluding athletic event was a boxing bout between Private F. W. Donovan, of the base hospital, and Semretary A. E. Bergman, of the Y. M. C. A. This was very fast. No decision was rendered in these fights.

Private Jack Foster, of the camouflage company at Camp Greene, sang a number of solos that were splendid. Among the selections which he gave were: "She's the Lass for Me," "It's Nice to Get Up in the Morning," and others. Mr. Gray gave a monologue and sang a song in conclusion.

OPENED BY PROGRAM.

An entertainment last night (Friday night) formally opened the base hospital recreation center of the Y. M. C. A. A good program was arranged and plenty of amusement was provided. A large gathering was present.

Two ambitious soldiers volunteered to paint the "desk" at the Y. M. C. A. building. The boys had to work overtime to do this work, as the painting was done at night after the program of the evening was finished. The improvement in the appearance of the desk is very marked, and the boys are to be congratulated for their fine spirit.

Private Albert C. Shorkey left the hospital on Thursday to take up farming for six weeks. He will be engaged on his father's farm in Vermont.