

TURNED EVERY CARD

TRAPS AND MINES PLENTIFUL
IN CLOSING DAYS.

Germany played her awful game of war craft to the last card. Every bit of deception and every form of trap was brought to play in those closing days when the might of her world-gathered foes was tearing to pieces her conquest of forty years making.

"Booby Traps" were the order of things when the stubborn warriors of autocracy were being pushed back, foot by foot, from the soil of Belgium and France. A "booby trap" is an infernal machine or concealed mine which explodes upon the proper movement of any of its parts.

Those carefully constructed devices of death were the order of discussion among the wounded officers in the officer's ward of the base hospital, on Tuesday morning, when The Caduceus reporter stole in and took a seat by the stove.

"The shovel in the ground gag got two of my men" explained Lieutenant Z. D. Thornburg, Company D, 118th Infantry, and whose home is in Concord, N. C. He was wounded by a high explosive in one of the late drives but that was after he had undergone all the thrills of dodging Teuton death plans.

"The shovel trick was to place a spade sticking in the ground as though it had been used by the Germans before they were forced to evacuate. A movement of the shovel set off a mine which blew up the earth for some area about. The first impulse of a soldier would be to take the spade and dig himself in on the open field. There were plenty of the shovels standing about so several of the men lost their lives by touching the spades. Two brave boys in my company went up."

"The loaded lead pencil also had to be contended with in the closing days. In a pocket of a goodly per cent of dead German soldiers was to be found a gold plated lead pencil. It was most attractive. Many of the soldiers took the pencils. There was no harm until a person started to write with their new found souvenir. Pressure of the pencil point caused the pencil to explode with remarkable violence. Many soldiers had parts of their right hand blown off by these loaded pencils before the intelligence department had thoroughly convinced all soldiers that they must touch no articles left in reclaimed territory.

"Every village we entered was filled with these "booby traps" and delayed mines. After we would enter a city there would be explosions and fires for two or three days. If the Germans had not been short of explosives I imagine they would have blown up the entire country," commented Lieutenant Thornburg.

"The most harmless appearing objects were to be the most feared during the reign of the "booby traps," the officers explained. "When a house was entered and was to be used as a billet it was the natural process of setting things aright which brought on the detonation which would wreck

ARE REAL PILL JUGGLERS



—Photo By Toohey.

BASKET BALL SQUAD OF U. S. ARMY BASE HOSPITAL, CAMP
GREENE

In a certain sort of "pill rolling" these fellows, representing the U. S. Army Base Hospital, Camp Greene, claim to be as clever as the best. They are the members of the basket ball team which is starting out to fill a heavy schedule.

Manager Corporal Avery Toohey has arranged games with Davidson College, Greensboro Independents, Oteen General Hospital, and is planning games with local teams.

The hospital men will meet the Ninetieth Infantry team at the Y. M. C. A. tonight at 7 o'clock and one of the scrappiest games of the season is expected as the infantrymen boast a quintet of much experience.

The names of the hospital aggregation, reading the top row from left to right is Manager Toohey, Private John Hoffman, Private Charles Zecha, Sergeant Charles Parro.

Seated, from left to right—Private Michael Lynch, Private Leonard Wyckoff, Sergeant Ralph North (Captain), Sergeant Verlin Harrold and Private Martin Lampman.

the place and possibly kill several men. It might be a picture which was hung unevenly on the wall and which would seem to appeal to any person to be straightened up and yet which was connected with a mine in such a way that the slightest touch would cause a terrific explosion.

"There were many cases in which mines were connected with the pianos in the French house, which the Germans had been forced to vacate. When a music loving soldier touched the keys it was death for all who stood in the room.

"The moving of a chair or an article upon the table was almost sure to cause a detonation which wrecked the house.

DELAYED MINES.

Delayed mines were even more violent in their explosions. These mines were often placed under railroad stations and in roadways. They were governed by a mechanism which caused them to explode a day or two after the Huns had departed.

The detonations were often so violent that they blew holes fifty feet deep and seventy feet across the mouth of the cavern. In many cases the expansion was so violent that buildings along the side of the street fell into the hole. Nearly every street

intersection would be mined in a town which the Germans evacuated.

Most of the delayed mines were worked by having a chemical action on the fuze wires. It required a day or two for the acid to eat the wire into. Few delayed mines were used in wrecking the railroads as the ways of commerce were wrecked as the Germans departed.

It was for the engineers to care for the traps and mines. They were called when a "booby trap" was suspected. They filled in the craters or bridged the cavities in the streets. They worked day and night in order that the forces of the allies could move forward upon the heels of the retreating foe.

WE HELPED.

Sergeant Dalquist used to write some mighty snappy athletic stuff for The Caduceus. He was transferred to Newport News with a Medical Supply contingent. We ran his picture in The Caduceus explaining that he was a live wire.

The picture had been in Washington but a few days when Dalquist was ordered transferred to the editorial staff of Come Back, the paper put out by the Walter Reed General hospital.