

Luxuries For Reds Are "Musts" For Uncle Sam's Men

(Editor's note: Following is the fifth in a series of six articles comparing a U. S. Army combat infantry division with the infantry division of the Soviet Russian Army.)

The basic difference between a democratic army and a police state army means that a U. S. division always will have more service troops than a Soviet division.

American soldiers have a number of services provided them whether they are stationed at a post in the United States or overseas, and they are supplied with many sundries such as razors, and blades, cigarettes, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The Russian idea of how often a soldier should bathe depends on how often he becomes covered with lice. Often water from a ditch or from a hole in the ice suffices for his bath. Seldom is a shower accessible to him. Neither are most of the other sundry items and services which are considered essential to an American but luxuries to the Russian. All of these supplies and services require manpower to operate. Manpower would be saved by eliminating them, but to do so would result in a decrease in combat efficiency.

The American people have a high reverence for their dead. (Since the time of the Civil War, the United States has maintained a policy of returning the remains of deceased military personnel in accordance with the wishes of the next of kin.

Painstaking care is taken in locating the temporary graves of those who fall in battle. Teams of the American Graves Registration Service search battlefields for remains of American servicemen. The remains are carefully and scientifically identified. They are placed in metal caskets and the caskets are placed in shipping cases for return to the United States or elsewhere as requested by the next-of-kin. Each deceased is accompanied to destination by a military escort for interment in a national cemetery if desired, or in a private cemetery. Military honors accompany the interment. This service, too, could be eliminated. But neither the U. S. soldier nor U. S. public would permit it—nor would the U. S. Army.

The Soviet Army provides no care for its soldiers once they are dead, unless they happen to stand high in the Soviet political regime. The slain are buried where they fall and their meager personal effects are sent to a central collecting agency. Thereafter, the fallen are ignored. Next of kin have to depend upon the unit commander to notify them by letter.

The American repatriation program requires a large number of highly trained, conscientious, and competent personnel to accomplish this mission. All of this personnel is saved to the Soviet Government by the simple expedient of leaving its dead to remain where they fall.

The Army's postal set-up is as efficient as the nation's postal system. A division is authorized 27 persons—two officers and 25 enlisted men—to operate the main post office. A post office in a city the size of an Army division employs 40 full-time personnel—in addition to special delivery messengers and truck drivers. The Russian Army has no postal service worthy of the name.

Moreover, these 27 postal clerks in a U. S. division are trained soldiers who can pitch into combat when the occasion demands it. The same is true of other service personnel of all categories except medical men and chaplains, who do not bear arms.

Very Likely

Wife (dealing)—In this story it says that the girl broke down and wept scalding tears. How could that be true?

Hubby—She must have been boiling over with rage.



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