

Play Mixed With Work at the Great Lakes Training Station

Boys Who Never Saw the Ocean Are Taught the Duties of a Sailor and Make Good Seamen

In Their Off Moments They Play Baseball, Box and Hold Other Athletic Meetings—Capt. Moffett Is Commandant

MORE than 10,000 young men from the colleges, factories, farms and offices of the middle west are learning at the United States naval training station at Great Lakes, Ill., far from the tang of salt water, to be sailors, and many of them have not even seen the sea.

Of course there is Lake Michigan, abutting the training station at its very doorway, but it is surprising what one can learn about navigation and nautical tactics without even setting foot on shipboard.

In the middle of a grassy field are scattered the working parts of a battleship. On a swinging platform there is a steering wheel with its creaking rope and rigged with a naval compass. Here the recruit gets all the sensations of the pitching seas while he holds her headed into the teeth of a booming "sou'wester." This contrivance and one affording training in the lowering and raising of boats are shown in the pictures.

Upon this field a large proportion of the men who have been sent into the navy since the declaration of war against Germany have been trained from raw material into deep sea sailor-

river, and some of them, in fact, had never seen a large body of water until they peeped over the sea wall at the training station and saw the waters of Lake Michigan dimpling in the streaming sunlight below, but when they left a few months later to go aboard a cruiser, a battleship, a destroyer or a submarine they were sailors—fighters on active service. Many of these men have been reared on the farms of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

Some say life at this inland naval training station resembles nothing so much as a game of "make believe," even though it is in desperate seriousness and is fraught with import. For example, when a man is given "liberty" or a permission to leave the station he says he is going "ashore." When he scrubs his tent floor he is "scrubbing deck." The station is known as the "island," and the station clock is the "ship's clock," and when it is 5 o'clock it is not 5 o'clock as we know it in civil life, but "two bells."

The bluejackets have their own monthly magazine, the Great Lake

yeoman. Pat Smith of Bay City, Mich., captain elect of the University of Michigan football team, enlisted as a seaman, is in charge of the football squads. As nucleus for his team he has Raymond Hildner and Locks, holders of University of Michigan "M's," and Phil Proctor of the University of Nebraska.

Boxing is one of the most popular sports at Great Lakes. Bouts are held every Thursday afternoon in a ring pitched in a natural amphitheater in a ravine on the reservation, and thousands of persons from the surrounding communities attend them.

Competition between the men of the service is keen. Each fighter seems to feel that he is to be the honor of his company. Chief Turret Captain Jack Kennedy, former champion of the north Atlantic fleet, is in charge of this part of the athletics. Ben Reuben, a Chicagoan and holder of the middle-weight wrestling title of the world, has enlisted as a second class machinist's mate and holds regular instruction classes on "breaks and holds" for the sailors. Coach Harry Hazelhurst of the Hamilton club of Chicago has enlisted in the United States naval reserve force as a second class yeoman. With the help of William Baerbach of the Illinois Athletic club he is teaching the recruits to swim.

One of the recruits has even installed a putting green and practices golf in his leisure hours. Baseball and boxing, however, are the favorite sports of the men. Almost any of the daylight hours you will see sailors engaged in batting and catching balls, while off at one side others are sparring.

In these days of stress and strife there is some competition for the title of "the busiest man," but Captain Moffett's assistants believe that he easily leads the field. It takes three relays of

LIVE ITEMS.

Building and loan associations of United States have increased their assets a little more than \$112,000,000 in the last year. Loans to members for purchase of homes amounted to \$413,000,000.

Eastern produce merchants have notified the Georgia Chamber of Commerce that carloads of Georgia figs can be sold each year in eastern States. Georgia orchard men are planning to test the possibilities of cultivating this fruit.

Potatoes in Boston are selling at \$4 to \$4.25 a barrel wholesale, lowest price since last winter, when they sold around \$10 a barrel. In Chicago, as result of settlement of switchmen's strike, price dropped from \$3.75 and \$4.50 a barrel to \$3 and \$4 in carload lots.

Following the going into effect of the Federal law against selling liquor to soldiers and sailors, a large number of saloons have gone out of business in San Francisco and more are about to suspend operation. In fact, San Francisco saloon men have been going out of business rapidly for the past year, 73 having given up. Sixteen others will close their doors within two weeks.

Spain's wheat crop is forecasted at 141,008,000 bushels by International Institute at Rome, or 7.4 per cent less than last year's crop, and rye at 27,778,000 bushels, or 3.5 per cent less than last year. Crop conditions in Spain are good; in Ireland, Italy and Switzerland average, and in Denmark, Great Britain and Sweden mediocre. India cotton crop is estimated at 4,273,000 bales, of 400 pounds each, an increase of 14.3 per cent over last year.

Mississippi agricultural experts have given the opinion that the corn crop of Mississippi will not be less than 75,000,000 bushels this year and may exceed 100,000,000. This will be the largest crop harvested in Mississippi at any time in her history. The cotton crop will also exceed all others in the history of the State, the number of bales being estimated at 1,250,000 if the weather conditions remain passably good during the next six weeks.

Farm products valued at more than \$160,000,000 were gathered from the lands of Louisiana during 1916, according to the annual crop report of the State Department of Agriculture, issued by Harry D. Wilson, Commissioner of Agriculture. The value of the farm crops is placed at \$154,735,819, and that of the live stock and poultry production at \$6,639,944, bringing the total valuation to \$161,375,763.

N. McNeal, a Negro, has begun the establishment of a home at New Orleans for the rehabilitation of members of his race, who, having served terms in the penitentiary, wish to lead honest lives. The whites of the city have placed approximately \$1000 in the hands of McNeal for this work. The home will be called Hope Hall, and Negroes released from the State's prisons will be given a home there until they are able to obtain work. The police and municipal authorities are helping.

MAN AND FOUR MULES KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

During a thunderstorm last Thursday afternoon, lightning struck the wagon train of Stamey brothers, merchants of Fallston, on the Shelby-Fallston road, instantly killed the driver, Charlie Canipe, and the team of four fine mules. The team was about five miles out and was moving along the road in the heavy rain and electric storm when the bolt struck. Neither the wagon nor the freight was damaged. When a farmer living nearby looked out to see if the lightning had struck his barn, he saw the mules lying in the road and rushed to the scene where he found the driver and the four mules lying on their left sides as if the wind had blown them over.—Shelby Correspondence Charlotte Observer.

TRY FOR AVIATION SERVICE.

Twenty Leave Charlotte in Special Car for Fort Thomas, Ky.

Leaving in a special car yesterday morning for Fort Thomas, Ky., were twenty young men who have enlisted within the past two days at the local United States army recruiting station, for service in the signal corps of the aviation division of the army. After being given preliminary instruction at Fort Thomas, they will be sent to Fort Sam Houston, Tex., where they will enter active service.—Charlotte Observer.



Flies Breed in Filth

—then come into your home

FILTH MEANS DISEASE and flies are born in filth, feed on filth and carry filth with them wherever they alight. Flies hatching today in an outhouse, stableyard or in garbage, may bring distress to your family later on in the summer. They may bring typhoid fever, summer complaint, consumption, malaria, or perhaps infantile paralysis. The fly is almost the exclusive conveyor of diarrhoea and dysentery among children and babies.

Red Devil Lye

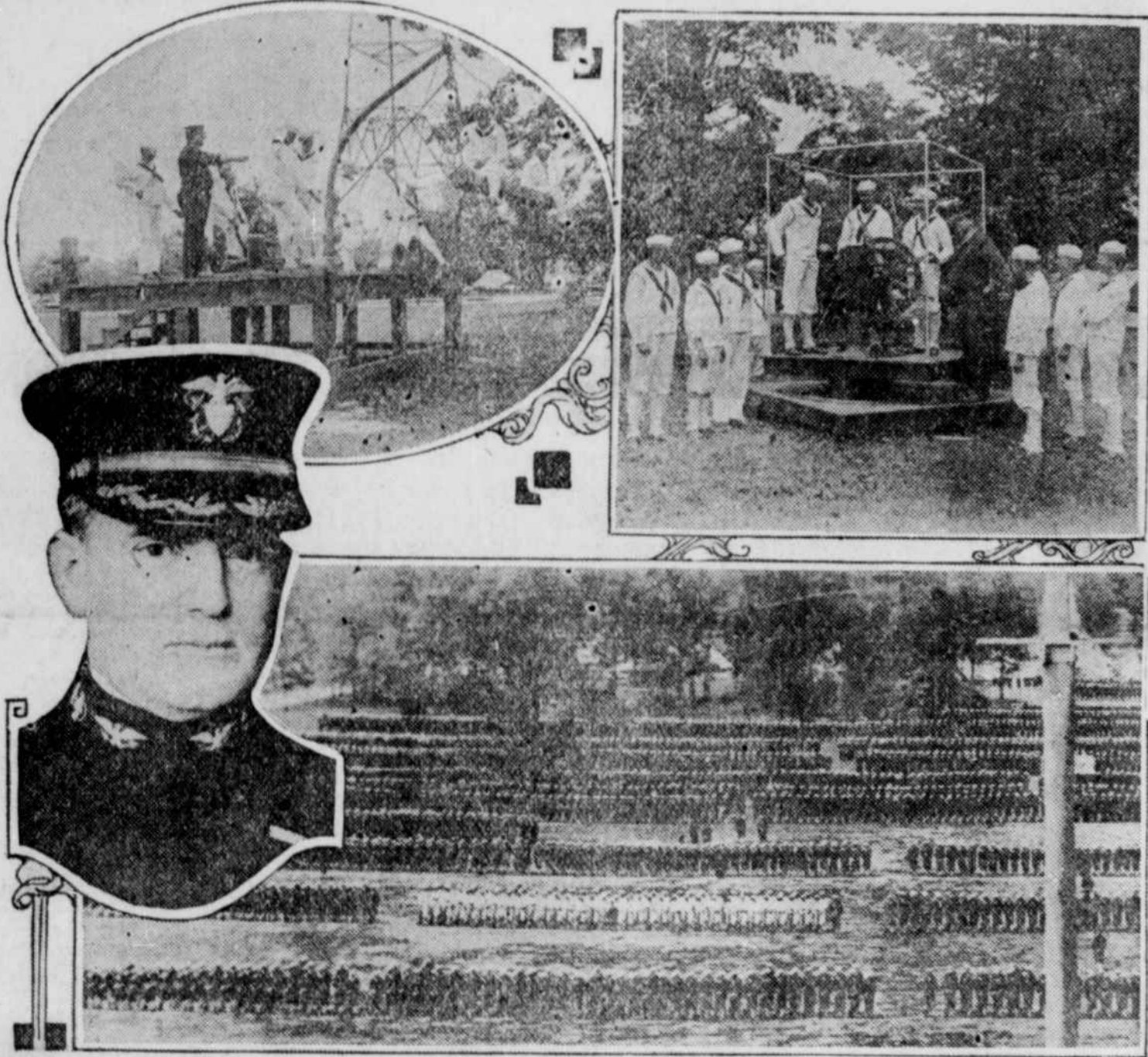
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Photos by American Press Association.
CAPTAIN W. A. MOFFETT, COMMANDANT OF THE GREAT LAKES NAVAL TRAINING STATION, AND MEN BEING TRAINED THERE.

men. About 20,000 have gone to sea from the station so far, and all of them have been trained on dry land.

Knotty problems in sailor's knots form a regular part of the recruit's day at the station. Before a bluejacket goes aboard ship he must be a master of "bends, hitches and splices" and the work is given every bit as much attention at the station as drill, physical training or boat practice. The recruit must qualify in the rigging loft before he can be rated a second class seaman. Here he is taught first to tie the simplest knot, known as the overhead knot and is that used in tying bundles. Bit by bit he progresses until he can tie ropes in all manner of intricate fashion.

The names of some of these savor of the deep sea. For example, there are the figure eight, the overhead, the square, the tomfool, the diamond, the French shroud, the lanyard, the monkey's first, the sennite, the double and single Mathew Walker, the marlinspike hitch, the back wall hitch, short splices, long splices, eye splices, wire rope splices, the stopper knot and many others.

And finally when he is graduated from the rigging loft he can tie a bowline knot to make a ship fast as it docks as easily as he can prepare a bowline on a bight for the purpose of slinging casks or loading stores. All are experts on the square knot, for it is this knot that usually catches the eye of Captain W. A. Moffett, commandant, on inspection days.

Three kinds of rope are used by bluejackets in tying the knots—Manila, tarred hemp and untarred hemp. Wire hemp is used when the ordinary rope will not serve the purpose. And finally, after two or three months this fresh water "boy" knows almost as much about a ship's ropes as does the man who has spent years on the salt water.

From Farm to the Navy.

To the large proportion of them knowledge of navigation was confined to a catboat or a canoe on an inland

Recruit, edited by themselves. It is a lively publication dominated by a strain of humor. It contains also reports of actual competition at the station, navy history and ship life, together with a few stories of the sea.

Although decorations are barred on a navy workday uniform and all jewelry and lodge or fraternity emblems go into the ditty box when the owner enlists, a number of the men recently have been wearing a button on their blue jacket showing that they have purchased a liberty bond. The men of the station purchased upward of \$700,000 worth of the bonds, and theirs was the largest single amount devoted to this purpose by the men of any station, yard or ship in the navy.

With about 2,000 men in training at the station who have earned distinction in college or high school athletics interest in sports is widespread at this station. In fact, from the time the young American slips into his blue jacket until he leaves for sea duty sports form a big part of his daily life and help build up his muscles and morals. Dr. John B. Kaufman, passed assistant surgeon, U. S. N., is in charge of athletics. He is aided by the services of a number of civilian volunteers who hold high places in the athletic world.

Under the tutelage of Jimmy Sheekard, assistant manager of the Chicago Cubs, forty-eight baseball teams playing in leagues of the various camps of the station participate in the regularly scheduled games. Martin A. Delaney, physical director of the Chicago Athletic association, who was second in command of the American Olympic team at Stockholm, is the track and field coach.

Many Noted Athletes.

In each of the several big outdoor meets this summer more than a thousand blue jackets participated. Coach E. J. Mather of Lake Forest college also assists in track athletics, as does Captain J. Helberg of the Lake Forest track team, enlisted as a second class

stenographers, called yeomen in the navy, to keep up with him. He rises shortly after daybreak and is usually at his desk until after midnight. Frequently it has been necessary for him to have his luncheon and dinner served on a tray in his office. He often transacts business while going to and from his home, giving interviews and conferences which he otherwise would have no time for. As an example of the pressure of his business, more than 900 visitors appeared at the station in one day not long ago and asked to see the commandant.

Captain Moffett displays a real personal interest in the station, and much of the routine work is delegated to others under his supervision, and he makes frequent inspections of details, and any complaint made by an enlisted man receives his hearing and attention.

Three times a day there are spirited combats with beefsteaks, called "half soles;" with potatoes, called "spuds;" with bread, called "punk," and butter that is called "grease," and perhaps a piece of pie, known as a "silver." A scene in a mess hall, of which there are about thirty on the station, resembles nothing so much as a college dining room.

Feeding this vast horde of 10,000 hungry boys is no small task, and their healthy outdoor life demands that they must be fed, and fed well, three times a day. According to Chief Commissary Steward Craver, the blue jacket who is unable to eat his share at mess has yet to be found. Mr. Craver has figured out that the food necessary for a single meal on the average day is about as follows: Seven thousand pounds of roast chicken, 2,000 pounds of mashed potatoes, 500 quart of gravy, 15,000 radishes, 4,000 tomato, 1,000 pounds of green peas, 40 gallons of ice cream, 3,000 pounds of cake, 7,000 pounds of milk, 6,000 loaves of bread and about 5,000 quarts of coffee. A simple order of "ham and" for all hands calls for 1,440 dozen of eggs and 2,000 pounds of ham.

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