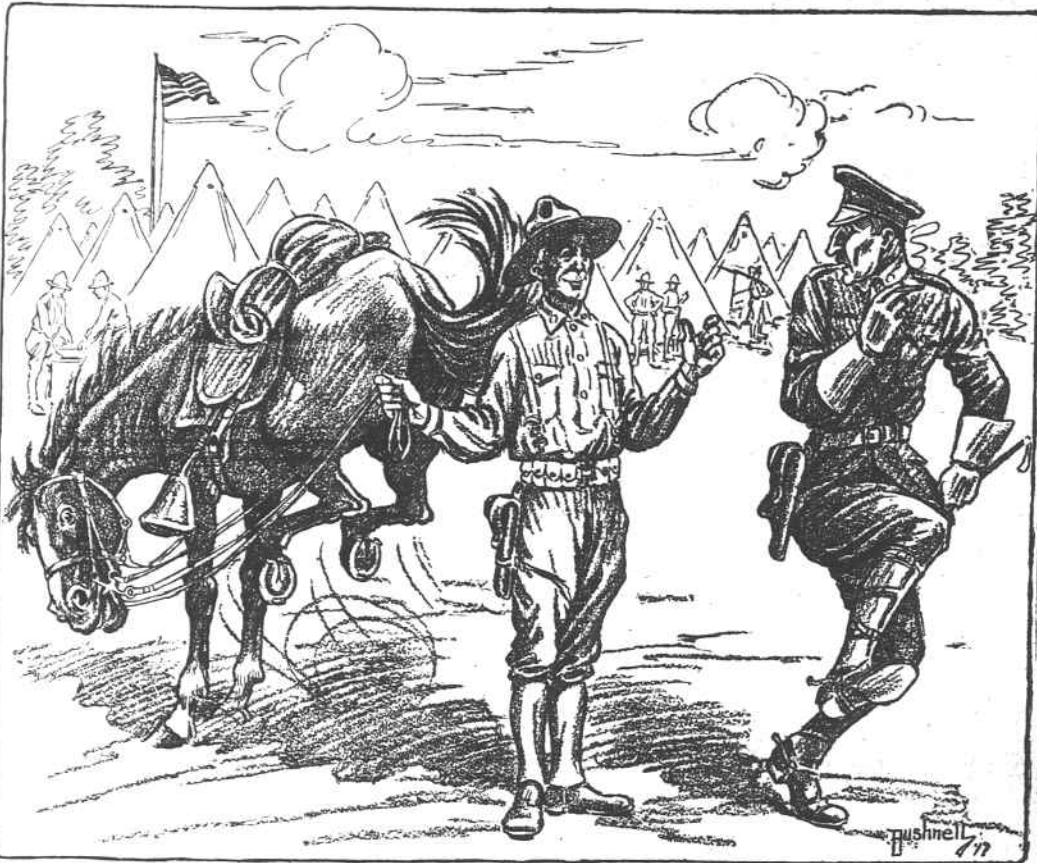


Perfectly Safe—For the Captain



FRESH STRIKER—"DON'T BE AFRAID, CAPTAIN, HE WON'T BITE YOU."

Drawn expressly for TRENCH AND CAMP By BUSHNELL

Pepper Talks

By George Matthew Adams

THE WAR

I am a believer in THE PLANNED running through all time. That things don't "just happen." That a life appears at its time for a reason—to fulfill ITS purpose. And that there are no accidents of destiny.

And that you were born at the particular minute of the world's evolving that you were because you were meant to best fit in at your particular time. History is but a proving of the fitness of happenings.

This war had to come. But it will end—because IT MUST. It is all in the plan of the world.

Victor Hugo in writing of the fall of Napoleon laid no fault at the feet of the great Corsican. He simply stated that the world had become unsteadily weighted by his power and that God had to step in. Well, God did.

So now our hearts must bitterly bleed with the heart of the whole world. But we must remember that out of it all is sure to come a "new birth of freedom" of such quality that the world has never known.

Events must face their time. Just at the hour when we thought that brotherhood had somehow come around, it drew its sword. And this same sword must be sheathed. But not until after the scathing plan of the Watcher of the world has been wrought.

So it is that in faith we fight on. And we are unafraid. The end is being justified right now. This war must go on until the great heart of the world has found its balance. And then peace—the peace of Understanding among men.

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A PASSING TRUTH

It's queer, but it's so.
Men are fashioned this way:
If you pay as you go
They will want you to stay.

SUBMARINES

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four hours between midnight and daybreak.

Then there were a number of special watch details, the most trying on the nerves and muscles of the soldier from the inland being duty in one or the other of the two "crow's nests." A "crow's nest" is that small Swiss Family Robinson affair up in the masts where look-outs are kept upon the broad surface of the sea. Transports keep a constant watch on duty in these airy perches, consisting of an officer and two men for each perch. The duty periods are two hours on and four hours off, requiring the services of twenty-four men and eight commissioned officers. It was amazing to observe the agility of the soldiers after a few hours' practice going up and coming down the rope ladders; they made the sailors gasp, some of the soldiers having once been ironworkers on skyscrapers.

Close Watch Kept

Some thirty-two men were used in a special deck watch, there being two in each watch box, four in the area of the ship on its prow and four away aft with the sailor gun crews. All these fixed watch posts are connected with the bridge by telephone wires, there being three men on the bridge to take their reports and transmit them to the naval officers. An officer of the deck bosses the special watches, but has nothing to do with the "crow's nest" posts up in the mainmast and the foremast.

Under such detailed overlapping observation of the horizon for suspicious objects it was hard to conceive of a surprise attack being made upon a troopship; it simply took the scare of danger and crumpled it in the minds of the soldiers.

To keep the men fit a half-hour of each day and often a longer period was devoted to physical exercise. Under competent direction

the men were put through vigorous body drills. One was the regular field artillery drill exercise with the familiar introduction: "First exercise, raise, head, up down." The other was the more complicated West Point method devised by and named after Capt. Koehler, where all the arms and trunk movements were given in detail by command. The exercises finished, the men were taken upon double quick runs around the decks, the combined fall of their feet sounding like the roar of artillery in action.

Nothing Left to Chance

Mothers anxious over the welfare of their boys who have joined the United States Army ought to realize that wherever trained human intelligence could devise a plan of either salvage or prevention the element of danger was reduced. Nothing was left to chance. All hazard was forestalled. Soldiers were drilled over and over again to meet what might happen until the "road out" had assumed the character of a disciplined evolution. Thus panic and disorganized efforts to escape the perils incident to the overseas crossing were evaporated in preparedness.

I have in mind the boat drills on all of the American troopships. Although precedent is set high in the sky against the sinking of a properly convoyed transport, i. e. the movement of Canadian troops overseas without the loss of a single ship, nevertheless our War Department proceeded upon the theory that some day, perhaps, a troopship of ours might be torpedoed. Hence the everlasting boat drill; an evolution of life upon our transport, repeated by day and by night until it had become as familiar to the men as the manual of arms.

THE CHEERING TIME

It's a pretty good world,
Et you take it dat way,
And know when and when not
To holler "Hooryay!"

Y. M. C. A. Doing Its Bit For Soldiers "Over There"

Many American soldiers who say they could not imagine what field service would be without the Y. M. C. A. buildings and their comforts and conveniences are wondering whether they will have the same facilities "Over There" as in the cantonments.

The Y. M. C. A. is on the job "Over There" as well as over here, and this is what Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George thinks of it:

"Few organizations have done so much in caring for the comfort and well-being of our soldiers as your associations.

"They give invaluable help to the army, and have immeasurably lightened the hardships which have to be endured by our troops.

"In recognizing the excellent work that has already been done, I should like to wish you success in that which you still propose to undertake."

EAST SIDERS TAKE KAISER INTO CAMP

Many novelties were introduced into the parades of the selective service men throughout the country on their way to railroad stations to entrain for their camps, but the boys from one of the East Side districts in New York seemed to have capped the climax.

Well up toward the head of the East Siders' column was presented the spectacle of Uncle Sam taking the Kaiser, heavily shackled, into camp.

One of the selective service men was costumed as Uncle Sam and the other dressed as the Kaiser, spiked helmet, high boots and all. Uncle Sam walked slightly in advance of the Kaiser, so as to strain the heavy, glittering handcuffs and make them visible to the thousands of spectators who laughed and cheered.