

TRENCH AND CAMP

Published weekly at the National cantonments for the soldiers of the United States.

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THE FIRST MILLION

"I am anxious to know how soon the first million American men can be expected in France." These are the words of Britain's Premier, Lloyd George.

They find echo in the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of men in training in American camps and cantonments. They, too, are anxious to know—and eager to go.

The collapse of Russia, the reverses in Italy hearten the American soldier. His traditions teach him that the larger the task the greater the ability of the American arm. The day of decisive American arms. The day of decisive American arms. The day of decisive American arms. The day of decisive American arms.

For a great peace-loving nation like this to arm itself for war is a stupendous task. It involves a complete transformation of the nation. It is no easy thing for the civilian to put aside his thought of the office, the counter, the factory and the many other mediums of civilian pursuit. It involves an entirely new viewpoint. How that viewpoint has been attained is the marvel of American method. Officers that have come to this country from our Allied armies have gazed in wonder as they have viewed the erstwhile civilians, suddenly become soldiers. How they men have adapted themselves to the new environment and the new order has astonished even those who knew American manhood.

The response on the part of the young men of the nation thus far has secured America that her safety is secure.

From the meagre reports that have been received from abroad confirmation of the hope that rest in American arms has come already. Not an American active operation has been conducted. There have been months of ceaseless tireless preparation. But the first of our soldiers of freedom have been on the firing line and already many of them have been cited in orders for conduct under fire. Operating in small detachments, they were without the stimulus of great movements when each man is fired by the thought of his many comrades near at hand. But still they rose to sublime heights in bravery and in discipline. What they have done already inspires those who are waiting to go "Over There."

The traditions of American arms, of the nation itself are safe with those already in France. And the remainder of what Lloyd George calls the first million have a new tradition to inspire them.

American troops in France were soon marked by the German commanders. News despatches indicate that the Crown Prince himself directed heavy machine gun fire to a point where his advances told him they were concentrated. The Crown Prince sought with a sudden and fearful blow, to break the morale of our armies. But he misunderstood the American soldier. The spirit that carried him, hungry and ill-clad and cold, through Valley Forge still lives in him. In his new endeavor he feels he is fighting again the battle of freedom. He is fighting against forces whose foe is the submarine—a hidden foe that creeps up unseen and will not fight in the open, but his spirit is indomitable. Sooner or later the dash

and daring that is characteristic of the American temperament will force the fight into the wider stretches, and deeds of brilliancy and valor that will write a new chapter into the history of military operations will be performed by American arms.

THE MAN WHO COUGHED

Lying in No Man's Land, ready to ambush a German patrol, an American foot soldier averted the approach of the enemy.

Not a sound was heard. Then faint footfalls broke the silence. Instantly the Americans made ready, being careful not to betray their presence.

The enemy came nearer and nearer. The time was almost at hand to fire the first shot.

AND THEN AN AMERICAN SOLDIER COUGHED!

In a moment machine gun fire was trained on the spot from where the sound of the cough came.

The Americans were forced to retire.

There were other men besides the one who coughed, that were victims of cold. But they had learned the art of self-control. In his zeal to do his part the one who coughed had unwittingly betrayed the presence of his comrades. Perhaps he was not much to blame. Perhaps the excitement of his impending baptism of fire overcame him. But the ambushcade failed.

What shall the man say as he reads this of the lapse of discipline? The little thing that must not be done and the little thing that must be done—either of which seems trivial and irksome—take on a new importance in the face of the enemy.

The man in the ranks may reason that he is only a very small factor and that it will not make much difference if he is not perfectly drilled and perfectly disciplined. But here is a concrete example.

The purpose of drill is to make the man in the ranks subordinate himself so completely that he become a part of a great machine. The purpose of discipline is to make the great machine move easily and achieve the desired result with the least expenditure of effort.

The individual is important because if he fails to catch the spirit of discipline he may clog the great machine.

Drill is a part of the large scheme of discipline, and discipline teaches absolute self-control.

It may take months of weary training to come to that point where the soldier can even restrain a cough. But the discipline must approach that state of perfection where the cough will be restrained—or the troops may be compelled to retire.

HOT SHOT FROM T. R.

Here are some of the "punchy" phrases used by Col. Roosevelt in an address he delivered to the National Army men in one of the Eastern cantonments:

"I have come here to pay my homage to you and to those like you."

"You'll find it a mighty sight pleasanter to explain to your children why you did go to the war than why you didn't."

"You have two duties. First, to do your bit. Second, when you go back into civil life, to act, as missionaries, to see that it never again be necessary for Uncle Sam to train for war after war has begun."

"Every man who would be satisfied at this time with any peace but the peace of overwhelming victory is trying to put a pistol on Uncle Sam."

"The man who hasn't raised himself to be a soldier, and the woman who hasn't raised her son to be a soldier aren't fit to be citizens of the Republic."

"I'd put the self-styled conscientious objectors in the first line trenches or on mine sweepers."

"I have no use for a man with a fifty-fifty allegiance. He that is not with us is against us."

"I'll bet on you against any sacker-krauter that ever were born!"

SPEAKING OF WAR

It was a secret war conference held in Washington last spring, and many prominent men were present from both North and South. The newspapers were anxious to get as much as possible, and their representatives were meeting with meagre success in interviews. One reporter finally cornered a polished Southern gentleman, anxious to get his opinion.

"Colonel Blank" said the interviewer with unctuous persuasion in his voice, "I would like to have your opinion of the war."

"Well, sah," courteously replied the white-bearded gentleman (he was of the old school). "I haven't thought about it much lately, sah, but it's all been my opinion, sah, that Lee never should have surrendered."

CANTONMENT TYPES

THE FELLOW WHO MAKES THINGS EASIER

THIS is about the Fellow who Makes Things Easier. Some times he wears bars, some times stars, and some times he's just Plain Private. Rank isn't his distinction. He is the ball-bearing on which the General Morale rolls easily. And he isn't conscious of his importance, which is only one of the many fine things about this chap. He Makes Things Easier unconsciously, with instinctive art.

Perhaps there's been no letter from the Woman for some time. Sunshine is like acid and the clear wine-like air is become poison gas. The Fellow who Makes Things Easier steps in. He jabs good natured whimsies at life in general and then remarks that there are other Women in the World, and only a few handsome soldiers. His little subtleties restore the sunshine's gold and clear the poison gas from the air.

And so he works. Perhaps by "keep smiling" taste bitter in the mouth occasionally. This roller-bearing lad makes them sweet again, not by re-

peating the gaps but by—smiling. He makes the unpleasant detail easier by slipping little ball-bearings of wit, rattily and josh into it. Or he may say nothing and do the biggest share of work.

This valuable member proved his virtue in those overcast days when the military life was new and so different, that a lump of homesickness would insist on rising. He saw the funny things and pointed out the incongruous. And he's been doing it ever since, with never-lagging originality.

He's not all froth, either. Underneath his soft, but still the Fellow who Makes Things Easier. His advice is the kind that helps. It is kind and seasoned with wisdom. He isn't afraid to face difficulties, either in his own life or in the life of a smilingly, manfully. His roller-bearing qualities make riding over the rough places seem like a Roller-Royce on asphalt.

Do you know him?—This Fellow Who Makes Things Easier.

Soldiers' Insurance Rights Are Defined By McAdoo

To the Officers and Enlisted Men and Women of the Army and Navy of the United States and Their Relatives:

The Secretary of the Treasury, through the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, has been charged with the administration of the War Insurance Law enacted by the Congress as a measure of justice to the men and women who have been called to give their lives, if need be, in the service of their country.

I wish to acquaint you with the benefits and privileges which your Government has placed at your disposal. It is essential that you and your families at home should know of your and their rights under this law in order that full advantage may be taken of them.

To care for the wife and children of the enlisted man during his service, the War Insurance Law compels him to contribute up to one-half of his pay for their support. The Government, on application, will generously aid to the extent of an allowance of from \$5 to \$50 a month, according to the size of the family. Moreover, if the enlisted man will make some further provision himself for a dependent parent, brother, sister, or grandchild, they may be included in the Government allowance.

If, as a result of injuries incurred or disease contracted in the line of duty, an officer or enlisted man or an Army or Navy nurse should be disabled, provided it is a permanent disability, the War Insurance Law provides for an allowance of from \$20 to \$100 a month to him, and should he die, compensation of from \$20 to \$75 a month will be paid to his wife, his child, or his widowed mother.

In order, however, fully to protect each person and family, Congress has made it possible for every soldier, sailor and nurse to obtain life and total disability insurance. This insurance applies to injuries received while he or she is in the service or after he or she shall have left it.

Feb. 12, 1918, Last Day

Exposure to the extra dangers of war makes the cost of life insurance in private life insurance companies prohibitive. It is therefore, a plain duty and obligation for the Government to assume the risk of insuring hundreds of thousands of our soldiers and sailors who are making the supreme sacrifice. Under this law, every soldier, sailor and nurse, commissioned and enlisted, and of any age, has the right, between now and February 12, 1918, to take out life and total disability insurance up to \$10,000 at very low cost, with the Government without medical examination. This right is purely optional. The soldiers and sailors are not compelled to take insurance, but if they desire to exercise the right, they must do so before the 12th of February, 1918. The cost ranges from 55 cents monthly, at the age of 21, to \$1.20 monthly at the age of 51, for each \$1,000 of insurance. This is a small charge on a man's pay—small in proportion to the benefit it may bring his pay, if he desires, thus eliminating trouble on his part.

To provide adequate protection until February 12, 1918, during the period when the soldiers and sailors are learning the details of this law, the Government automatically insures each man and woman, commissioned or enlisted, in the military

service of the United States. It pays the man \$25 a month during total permanent disability; if he dies within 20 years, it pays the rest of \$40 monthly installments of \$25 each to his wife, child or widowed mother, as desired, to call the provisions of this just and generous law to the attention of our officers and enlisted men and women so that they may not be deprived of their rights through lack of knowledge. Full information may be obtained from the Bureau of War Risk Insurance of the Treasury Department, Washington, D. C. I earnestly urge that the officers of the Army and Navy give to the men under their command the possible aid in helping them to understand fully the benefits that this insurance may bring to their families and the small cost at which it may be obtained.

This is the greatest measure of protection ever offered by any nation in the history of the world. It is not charity; it is simply justice to the enlisted men and women and to their loved ones at home, and each and every one of them should promptly take the benefits of this great law.

W. G. McADOO, Secretary of the Treasury.

FIGHTING MEN INSURING AT RATE OF 6,000 A DAY

Applications for more than \$700,000,000 of life insurance are expected by the Military and Naval Division of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance of the Treasury Department during the first five weeks' operation of the War Insurance Act, according to an announcement by Secretary McAdoo.

Under the law, soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses in active service, in addition to family allowances and death and disability compensation provided by the Government without charge, may buy from the government life insurance up to \$10,000 at a rate of from 55 cents a month at the age of 21 to \$1.20 a month at the age of 51, for each \$1,000 of insurance.

From October 8 to November 17 the Military and Naval Division of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance received more than 78,300 applications representing insurance of more than \$575,000,000. The average amount of insurance applied for, counting officers and men, is \$8,603.

Applications are being received at the rate of approximately four or five thousand a day—often close to six thousand. The amount of insurance applied for on a given day ranges from twenty to fifty million dollars.

These figures do not include applications from the American overseas forces, which are known to have amounted to the first formal applications from France are not expected to arrive here for several weeks.

Intensive efforts are being made at all National Guard and National Army camps, and among the naval forces, to explain the terms of the new War-Insurance law.

Col. C. R. Howland, 343d Infantry, Camp Grant, Illinois, in a letter recently received by the Treasury Department, said that he was forwarding to the War Risk Insurance Bureau 12,037 applications totaling \$9,315,160. "This makes a total of insurance written by me in this division of \$109,376,500," said Col. Howland.

